

Chinese Photobook Day

From "Third Front Movement" to urbanization process, from "green-skinned train" (old-style slow train in China) to internet economy, from the arranged marriage to female consciousness... Alongside China's rapid development and changes, Chinese photographers have been eagerly watching this huge and complex country through their lens. With their wonderful photographs, they have shown us a keen observation of Chinese society at both macro and micro levels. No longer limited by the tradition of documentary photography, the younger generation of artists brought more diversified approaches and more unique perspectives. Multimedia, private photography, staged performance, appropriation of existing images, archives, virtual reality... these creative approaches, which have not been used in traditional photography, have increasingly appeared in the works of emerging Chinese photographers today. Their work directly reflects Chinese youth groups' unique culture, such as concerns about personal identity, globalization, decolonization, gender equality, cyberspace, and environmental issues. Yet they do so in vastly different ways. While artists like Luo Yang document the inner life of the new generation, other photographers such as Gulu and Lin Zhipeng aka. 223 explore the playful and sexually liberal attitude emerging amongst the youth.

With the global upsurge of photobooks, Chinese photographers are becoming more and more active in the field of publication. To them, Photobooks are not just a way to represent their photographs but also a medium with its own form of expression. The exquisite and unique book design turns the books into hand-held exhibitions. For Chinese Photobook Day, we have selected photobooks published by Chinese publishing houses or self-published. The event consists of three sections. In each section, we will focus on one specific theme and closely look at the photobooks related to the theme.

Section I: Disappearing Hometown

Photobooks to introduce: *Reborn*, *Summer Time 3*, *404 Not Found*, *German Balcony*, *24 Mails from the Railway*, *No Line on the Horizon*, *Winter Land*

Section II: The Relationship

Photobooks to introduce: *Judy Zhu*, *Girl. CN*, *Experimental Relationship*, *The Bliss of Conformity*, *Five Photographers*

Section III: Social Landscape

Photobooks to introduce: *The Yellow River*, *White Night*, *1974*, *Until Death Do Us Part*, *Wow Taobao*, *History of Life*

Luo Yang

Luo Yang is considered the shooting star of the current Chinese photo scene. This book combines essential examples from her two work series "GIRLS" and "YOUTH".

Since 2007 the extensive series "GIRLS" has been created, a very personal examination of the photographer with women of her generation. Whether against the backdrop of Chinese megacities or in intimate settings in the private environment, the young women present themselves confident and individual, but at the same time appearing vulnerable and fragile. Apart from traditional female role models and traditional clichés, they are looking for their way to a self-determined life in the modern, rapidly transforming China.

In the series "YOUTH", Luo Yang has been working with young people of Generation Z since 2019, i.e. those born in the late 1990s and around 2000. Fluid gender assignments become just as apparent as the search for individual expression between creative staging and authentic body feeling. Luo Yang paints the sensitive picture of the urban Chinese youth in search of orientation and identity.

This book was chosen as one of the most beautiful books in Austria 2020!

Catalogue published as part of the exhibition "YOUTH, GIRLS. LUO YANG. Selected Works" held at Francisco Carolinum Linz from October 2020 to February 2021. The catalogue includes two articles, by Gabriele Spindler and Ulrike Matzer, as well as 106 works by the artist.



@候鳥空間MigrantBirdSpace



@候鳥空間MigrantBirdSpace

Lin Zhipeng aka.223

Born in Guangdong, China in 1979, Graduated from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies with major of financial English.

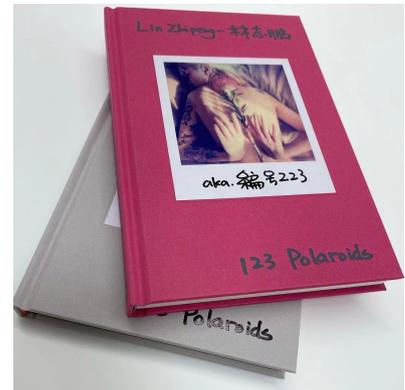
Created in 2003, his blog "North Latitude 23" received millions views and made him famous among the web community.

123 Polaroids No.223 Lin Zhipeng (Beijing, China) 123 Polaroids is not simply a selection of 123 images from 223's extensive and fabulous collection of Polaroid work, on which he embarked in the early 2000s from his hometown of Guangzhou, China. It is a deep dive into his intimate memories of dear ones, his inexpensive Polaroid films and his travels across China, Tibet, South East Asia, Japan and Europe. It is a panoply of his love, fashionable nudity, of expressive glaring portraits, of colorful landscapes and people, of embracing bodies in playful melancholy, of eroticism, of a sense of absence and untold more, all fashioned by the touch of the stunning imperfections of this medium and the master's talent.

223 once told me that labeling or selecting 1, 2 or 3 of his photographs as the best ones would be extremely difficult because each one speaks about a memory, an intimate moment from a period in his life. To those words, I add that the beauty of a photograph is not just the image, with its composition, colors, albedo, and perfection or simplicity — it is also an entanglement of actual memories, and of the sensations the image can ignite. In that light, 123 Polaroids conveys the intent and breadth of a poet, uniquely giving voice to the intercourse of 223's intimate souvenirs, ignited sensations and 123 Polaroids.

The book includes 91 photos of the artist's work, including a one-page text by the artist.

Title: Grand Amour
 Artist: Lin Zhipeng aka No.223
 Editor: Tommaso Parrillo, Lin Zhipeng
 104 Pages / 17 x 24 cm / Hard cover
 First edition of 750 copies is sold out
 Second edition of 1000 copies
 Design by Federico Barbon
 Published in July 2020
 ISBN 978-88-944340-9-5



Selected works by **Luo Yang** in high-quality print on 600g cardboard.

Limited edition of 200

Dimensions each card: 21 cm x 14,8 cm

Luo Yang: 22 Cards,

ISBN:978-3-9820447-1-2 , incl. waistband & cover.

LUO Yang (1984) was born and raised in Liaoning Province, China. She graduated from the prestigious Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang in 2009. A graphic designer by education, she decided to pursue her interest and talent in photography instead. Today, she lives and works in Beijing & Shanghai as a freelance photographer. In her work, highly staged portraits and carefully constructed poses alternate with a raw, blurred snapshot-aesthetic. After numerous exhibitions in Asia and abroad, Luo is well-acclaimed internationally and has been featured by ARTE, ZDF Aspekte, Spiegel Online or Le Figaro International, amongst others major media outlets. Her monograph GIRLS was published on occasion of the 10-year anniversary of her series in 2018. In the same year, BBC voted her among the 100 most inspiring women world-wide. She recently received the Jimei x Arles Women Photographer's Award.



Selected works by **Lin Zhipeng (No. 223)** in high-quality print on 600g cardboard.

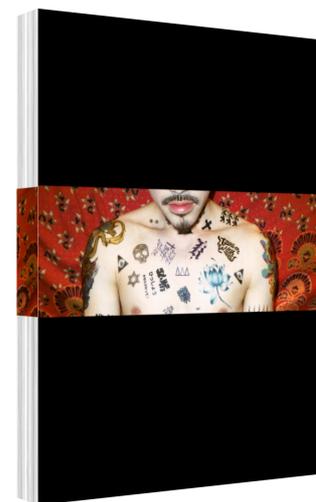
Limited edition of 200

Dimensions each card: 21 cm x 14,8 cm

Lin Zhipeng (No. 223): 20 Cards

ISBN:978-3-9820447-0-5 incl. waistband & cover.

Naming himself "No. 223" after the police character in Wong Kar-Wai's cult-classic Chungking Express, Lin Zhipeng also adopts a sense of the Hong Kong director's poetic, dream-like atmosphere as well as the emotional ambiguity of many of his film's characters. Born in Guangdong in 1979, Lin Zhipeng graduated from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies with a major in English. In 2003, he created his blog "North Latitude 23" where he published everyday pictures accompanied by short texts. His blog about Chinese urban subculture received millions of views and made him popular among the web community. He has since exhibited his works widely in Asia and Europe, while also having published photography books in Taiwan, France, Canada and Japan. He lives and works in Beijing.



Fu Zi

'Surprises tend to rest in that you never know what will appear'. So Fuzi describes his new technique of Polaroid-painting, which is traced in "No Line On the Horizon", from the first time he applied watercolour to a Polaroid photo, to the large-scale solo exhibition held at BENNUS Art in 2019.

Enchanted by the glossiness and instantaneity of the Polaroid camera, Fuzi initially sought a way to reuse 'wasted' photos that didn't turn out as expected. However, when he first started to apply watercolour to these Polaroid photos, they opened up a whole new world for the experienced artist. Up until then, Fuzi had mostly been working on large formats, yet now he started painting on small, 8.8 x 10.7 cm Polaroid photos. As his friend Gao Jin recounts, Fuzi emphasises drawing 'a small picture with a large pen'. Shifting from large to small formats, he has managed to boil down the qualities of his formerly preferred formats into the 8.8 x 10.7 cm format, making the Polaroid-paintings small windows into the larger, mysterious world of the artist.

In addition, as discussed in the interview between Fuzi and Feng Xi, the process of creation of the Polaroid-painting is entirely different from that of normal painting. Both are media that rely on uncertainty, and gives surprises to both artist and viewer, never quite turning out as expected. And contrary to facing a white canvas, onto which an artist can apply any pre-conceived ideas, Fuzi meets an already finished work when he starts a Polaroid-painting. By analysing this work – the Polaroid photo – Fuzi decides how to approach it, and how he can make the automated, realistic content of the photo work in harmony with the manual and abstract qualities of the watercolour. Painting on both his own photos, and 'waste' photos brought online, Fuzi consciously engages with the worldviews of others, combining them with his own through the appliance of watercolour.

Catalogue released as part of an exhibition at BENNUS Art in 2019. The catalogue includes eleven photos of the artist's studio, as well as 142 photos of his works. It further includes an introduction by the artist, and two articles, by Zhang Xi and Liu Yiping, a dialogue between the artist and Feng Xi, as well as three texts, one by the artist's childhood friend, Gan Jing, the second by a fellow artist, Wang Haiying, and the third by the artist's daughter, Liu Xiaolong.

Book Details:

Title: No Line on the Horizon
Artist: Fuzi (Beijing, China)
Hard Cover – Yellow
90 pages, W25.5 X H34
Published May 2019
Bennus Art Institution
All Images © Fuzi
Editor: Wu Zefeng
Producer: Yi Yanning and Qian Xiaomei
Graphic Design: Moo Design
Printed in China



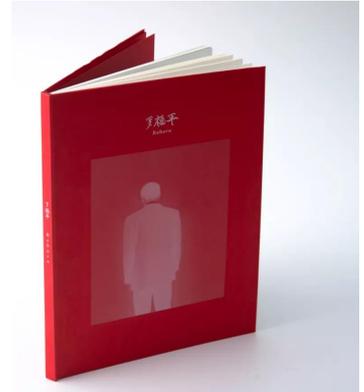
拉黑 《罗福平》 Luo FuPing Reborn/Lahei

Born in 1984 in Jiangxi Province, Lahem graduated from Chinese Department of Fudan University in 2008. He currently lives in Hangzhou as an artist.

Lahem is the Hakka from southern mountain area of Jiangxi Province. After studying and living in Shanghai for more than ten years, he finally settled in Hangzhou. As a photographer, Lahem has been creating works with his hometown as the theme against the background of Hakka migration since 2007, and taking himself as a case to discuss the identity of new immigrants. Luo Fuping" is the third work in the Hometown series. In this work, he tries to face his innermost memory about the village and death, and to re-understand the potential influence of memory in individual shaping. in the end he recognizes Luo Fuping as an integral part of Lahem.

This book is published by the artist in June 2019.

180x245mm, 88p



GIRL.CN KINAKAAL FORLAG 出版

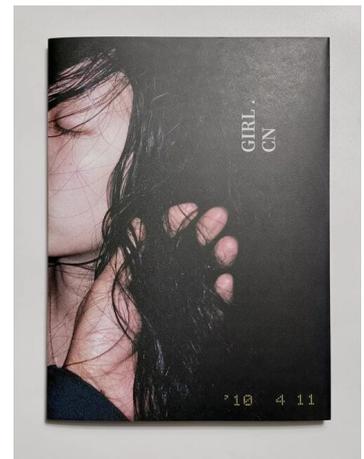
Author: Dai Jianyong (Coca) and Kang Liang

This photo book is the second book of Kinakaal Forlag, curated by our photographer friend Dai Jianyong (Coca) and Kang Liang. It took a long time from conceiving the idea to the open call process, all the way to the book came into being. Beautiful things take time and are always worth waiting for.

Girls are different in the book. Some of them were looking into the lenses and through the cameras and the ones who controlled the shutters, to be facing us; some of them just ignored the photographers and immersed themselves in their own melancholy or lethargic mood. They are not just the passive objects of the camera, but the performers who're leading the photographic languages. They were not delighting any one, but they were nevertheless enchanting. Half of the photographers are as young as the girls. They are all from the 90's or 00's, growing up together with the girls of the same age. The young viewers collapsed with the young bodies and bursted out such beautiful sparks. Others are friends of the curators, photographers with profound experiences. Their involvement should certainly encourage the young generation.

GIRL.CN consists of 102 photos of Chinese girls by 73 photographers, with introductions by Lin Ye (well-known Chinese photographer) and Xu Chungang(poet, photographer, translator) in both English and Chinese. This is not just a pretty Syasinsyu, not even a common photo book.

290x210mm, 150p



Judy Zhu

Author: Coca Dai

Shanghai artist Coca Dai's series Judy Zhu 2008-2015, began at first as daily snapshots of his girlfriend and developed into a significant intimate narrative on contemporary womanhood. Photographing between 2008 and 2015 entirely using film cameras, the black and white and color images all share an unadulterated directness. Each image invites us to raise questions about the two human beings confronting each other separated by a camera. This ongoing body of work gives us insight into the relationship of the artist and Judy Zhu as they discover one another, experience pregnancy, convert to Catholicism and grow from young lovers into adulthood as parents in contemporary China.

This book is published by Kinakaal Forlag.

245 x 330mm, 116p



214 《下河3》 Sommer Time

Author: 214

This book is the third issue. Imageless 无像 design and edit into a PhotoBook. During the summer, people who live in the Gui Zhou province will go for swimming in the rivers between the mountains.

This book also is the Fourth book Imageless 无像 published with 214.

116p



Until Death Do Us Part

Hong ShuangXi
Author: Thomas Sauvin

Until Death Do Us Part focuses on the unexpected role cigarettes play in Chinese weddings. As a token of appreciation, it is customary for the bride to light a cigarette for each and every man invited. The bride and the groom are then invited to play some cigarette-smoking games of an unprecedented ingenuousness. This publication pays homage to a tradition in which love and death walk hand in hand.

These photos come from the Beijing Silvermine project, an archive of half a million negatives salvaged over the years from a recycling plant on the edge of Beijing.

This book is published by Jiazazhi. It is nominated as one of the best photobooks in Fotobookfestival Kassel 2016 as well as one of the best photobooks by photo-eye and New York Times in 2015.

56 x 86 x 23mm, 108p



Experimental Relationship

Vol.1.1
Author: Pixy Liao

This book is mainly a collection of photos from *Experimental Relationship* project from 2007 to 2017. As a woman brought up in China, Pixy Liao used to think she could only love someone who is older and more mature than her, who can be her protector and mentor. Then she met her current boyfriend, Moro. Since he is 5 years younger than her, Pixy felt that whole concept of relationships changed, all the way around. She became the person who has more authority & power. One of her male friends even questioned how she could choose a boyfriend the way a man would choose a girlfriend. And she thought, "Damn right! That's exactly what I'm doing, & why not?!" Pixy started seriously thinking about the significance of this relationship, and experimenting with photographs. Her photos explore the alternative possibilities of heterosexual relationships. Moro made her realize that heterosexual relationship doesn't need to be standardized. Depending on the individuals, every two people will have a different type of relationship. Even if the relationship is not the type we are familiar with, it still exists and has its own benefits. The purpose of this experiment is to break the inherent relationship model and reach a new equilibrium. Because Moro is Japanese, and Pixy is Chinese, this project also describes a love-hate relationship. She plans to continue this project as long as they are together. She hope this is the first collection of photos of several to follow.

This book is published by Jiazazhi in March 2021.

168mm X 260mm X 15mm规格：平装，160页，77张彩色照片



Wow Taobao

Author: Ruben Lundgren & Matjaz Tancic

Taobao.com is one of the top 10 most visited websites in the world. The e-commerce platform owned by Alibaba serves consumer-to-consumer businesses all over China and Chinese-speaking regions. The great variety of sellers and limited amount of cash spent on photography, make it a walhalla for those enjoying the genre of useful photography. For this sticker album project photographers Ruben Lundgren and Matjaz Tančič have selected the best photographs showcasing the variety of products out of their collection of more than 1000 photographs collected over years. The album highlights many fascinating, artistic, inventive and surprising products shot in a witty way.

This book is published by Jiazazhi.

210 x 280 mm , 64p



White Night

Author: Feng Li

Feng Li (b. 1971, generally known as "free pig" in China), the best photographer on the street based in Chengdu China. This is his first monograph, with a selection of his color works shot from 2005 to 2015. The title comes from a sentence in Holy Bible, "By day they meet with darkness, and grope at noon as in the night."

280mm X 200mm X 12mm, 184p+8p

Statement by the artist

I don't know whether they are photographic works, but they do present another sides of our reality. I can't explain them specifically, as I can't understand the world. The only thing I can tell is my questions. Most of the time I am the person who asks, and answers a question in front of me by asking a new. There is always a question mark following the answers. I can ask at any time with my camera. The seemingly calm world is torn by sharp flash, and deep shadows are left in the souls. The night outside my window is white as the day when the passengers walk in a hurry. This is my world, of white night.

This book is published by Jiazazhi in July 2018. It shortlisted by Aperture-Paris Photo First Book Award 2017



THE YELLOW RIVER

Author: Zhang Kechun

Zhang Kechun, born in 1980 in Sichuan province, China. He won the National Geographic Picks Global Prize in 2008, was nominated by Three Shadow Photo Award in 2012, nominated by Sony World Photography Awards in 2012 and 2013, nominated by the Prix HSBC Pour la Photographie 2014. He won Arles Discovery Award 2014.

Artist's Statement

Carrying out this photograph project is because of the inspiration after reading the novel River of the North written by Zhang Chengzhi. Attracted by the powerful words in this novel, I decided to take a walk along the Yellow River to experience and feel the father-like broad and wide brought from this river, so that I could find the root of my soul .while along the way, the river from my mind was inundated by the stream of reality. The river, which once was full of legends, had gone and disappeared. That is kind of my profound pessimism. Nevertheless, as a vast country with a long history, its future is always bright. There is a descent in the matrix; there is her own nutrition to feed her babies; there is the power of creation to cultivate them strongly. The weak moaning finally will be drowned by the shout for joy. From this point of view, it seems, all shall be optimistic. This book is published by Jiazazhi.

355*260mm



German Balcony

Author: Chen Haishu

In the summer of 2017, Chen Haishu and his wife moved to Nordstadt District of Karlsruhe, Germany. The building they live, along with the 50 surrounding buildings with almost the same appearance, belonged to Paul Revere Village, the new military base of the U.S. Army in Karlsruhe after the Second World War. Like other U.S. military bases in Germany, Paul Revere Village is well-equipped and self-contained, like a "small American". After the end of the Cold War, the American troops withdrew from Karlsruhe and handed over the barracks, together with their supporting facilities – the military airport, schools and other infrastructure to Germany. This area was subsequently converted into a new urban district. The buildings of barracks were expanded, added with extra storeys and equipped with balconies, becoming residential buildings for civilians; the airport was set as a nature reserve. Although the U.S. military has completely withdrawn, its influence on German society for 50 years did not dissipate.

As new residents, Chen documents the daily life of the area while looking for the material about the U.S. military in Karlsruhe from the local archive, and combines them together. Under different historical conditions, the coexistence of different groups and cultures faces similar or divergent difficulties.

This book is published by Jiazazhi in November 2019.

24 X 32cm



24 Mails from the Railway

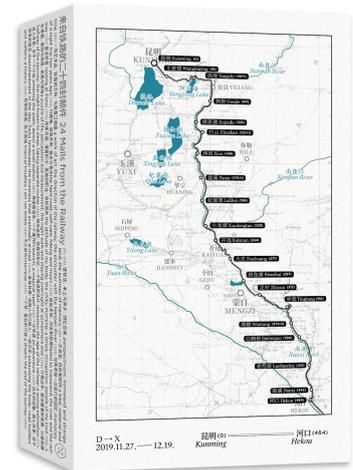
Author: Cheng Xinhao

December 1, 2019, Cheng Xinhao departed from Kunming. He decided to walk along the Yunnan-Vietnam Railway, of which the end is the ocean. During this journey, he picked up a piece of railway ballast for every kilometer, and sent one email to a fictitious friend X every night. Eventually, it took him 19 days to cover the part of the Yunnan of the whole railway, as long as 465 kilometers. The weight of the stone on his body reached more than 20 kilograms, and the amount of the mails was up to 24.

Through these texts and images left over a year ago, *24 Mails from the Railway* tells the story of this journey: about the railway, about the land of Yunnan-personal stories once happening on this land, about the colonized history of two East Asian countries, about the modernization of the mountainous areas in Southeast Asia, and also about Cheng Xinhao's childhood memories and geographical imagination, about his connection with his hometown and the region.

This book is published by Jiazazhi in 2020.

120*195*30mm, 468p



404 Not Found

Author: Li Yang

These photos were taken for a city in China called „404“. Li Yang was born in „404“ city in 1984 and had lived there for 19 years.

404 is just a code given to the city which has no another name, and it was and still is not marked on the map of China. This 404 city was built in the 1950s in China. During its days, there were about 50,000 people living there, but the size of which was no larger than one square kilometers.

404 was the earliest and the largest nuclear technology research base supporting the nuclear bomb projects in China. The establishment of 404 had made irreplaceable historical contributions to raising the international status of China in the world after the first explosions of the atomic and hydrogen bombs in China in 1964 and 1967 respectively.

Li Yang is a third generation of 404. After half a century, people moved away from 404 at the beginning of 2000s, leaving deserted scenes everywhere. Li came back again with his camera and saw those deserted scenes, it struck him as if he was facing an entirely different world, feeling extremely familiar and yet very strange at the same time.

This book is published by Jiazazhi in May 2019

规格: 精装, 230 x 160mm, 208页



Five Photographers

Author: Zhang Zhizhou

On the cover, you can see five names of the photographer, **Q, M, K, T, S**, which are randomly inserting in the word **"The Photographer"**. It looks uncomfortable. Actually, their stories are also a little bit awkward. They are trapped in their own idols and aesthetics. Thus their minds and creations are confined in the same way. However, thanks to some unpredictable coincidences, finally they abandon all those obsessions, and face their own internal worlds. This book is published by Jiazazhi in April 2021.

217*285*10mm



1974

Author: Li Lang

Li Lang (b. 1969) is a visual artist, currently lives and works in Chengdu, China. Li has often experimented with a deliberately subjective approach in his documentary, as it highlights the photographer's perspective of the subject or the visual language at play.

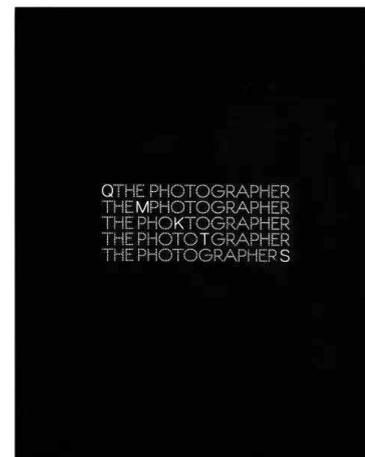
Everyone has a unique starting point in one's own memory. For Li Lang, it all started in 1974. His work "1974" consists of 390 slides playing in a loop, accompanied by the artist's voice-over of 4 stories extracted from his memory of 1974, a summary of the important events of that year, and vignettes of the voice-over on the site.

As an artist who mainly works with photographic images, Li Lang has inserted his observations of history and images in the fuzzy zone between reality and fiction, as well as his reflections on the contradictions and conflicts between them. The slides in „1974“ come from vintage photographs that he collected over the years from different sources, including studio portraits, travel photos, snapshots of work and everyday life scenes, etc. After putting them into different categories, Li hand-labeled them with dates based on a fictional timeline. Thus, these vintage photographs are removed from their original contexts and become his memory metaphors which are later framed into his own narration.

Li Lang's work reconstructs his imagination of the starting point in his memory through voice-over and vintage photos. Images and texts are no longer just traces of the past. They also explore the potential dialogue with reality in the gap between light and shadow. Li never asks the audience to accept his narrative of history. Instead, he invites us to join him as an explorer of the past.

This book is published by La Maison de Z in September 2020.

100mm x 150mm x 70mm, 760p

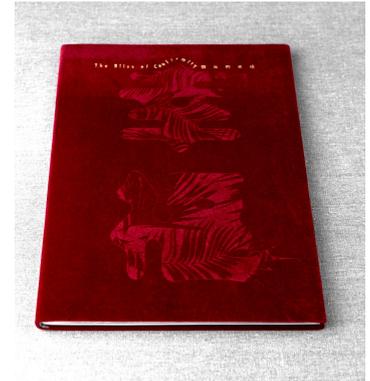


The Bliss of Conformity

Author: Guo Yinggunag

The boyfriend's parents can't accept her age after all, and their relationship ended there. That's how Chinese photographer Yingguang Guo (b. 1983) became single at the age of 33, a "left-over woman", considered by the eyes of contemporary Chinese society. Burdened by all of the questions she could not find answers to, Guo went to the People's Park in Shanghai to perform as her own "matchmaker", holding a sign with her own accomplishments, while the parents come sniffing around to assess her suitability for their children. In addition to being a place of relaxation, Shanghai People's Park is also a well-known market for matchmaking that has been in existence for ten years. Hundreds of parents gather there every weekend regardless of weather, clutching succinct summaries of their children on single information sheets that contain their age, height, education, job, salary etc. all in an effort to find an "acceptable" partner for their child to marry.

By photographing daily scenes and details of personal ads at the matchmaking corner, Guo also uses photo-etching techniques to create a series of abstract images that reveal the turbulent truths of arranged marriages beneath the seemingly calm surface depicted by peaceful images of the park, such as traditional intergenerational relationships and views of marriage, as well as discrimination against the so-called "left-over women". This book is published by La Maison de Z in May 2018.



287mm x 205mm x 14mm, 86p