



# LUO YANG

Born in the 80s in Liaoning Province, China, Luo Yang currently lives between Beijing and Shanghai.

As a photographer, she's been placing her focus on women from different generations and backgrounds in contemporary China, depicting an emerging Chinese youth culture that defies imposed expectations and stereotypes.

Solo shows in Paris, Berlin, Austria, Hong Kong and Bangkok have since contributed to her international recognition and she's been widely covered by western media. She was selected as one of BBC's "100 WOMEN" in 2018, shortlisted for C/O Berlin Talent Award in 2019, and a winner of Jimei · Arles women photographers award 2019.

Using film, Luo Yang shoots these atypical characters of Chinese society with due sensitivity, working on "documenting" a generation she meets daily, of whom she says it is her duty to preserve a photographic trace. This is a pioneering generation, more "sex, and rock'n'roll" than "K-pop", in contrast with the ultra sophisticated and sanitized image conveyed by the pop stars adored by young people in China today.

With their tattoos, hair with different colors, and flamboyant looks, those in front of the camera - musicians, artists, bloggers, friends or strangers, sometimes met online, who often become close to the photographer - are very self-conscious of their appearance. Yet nothing is quite fit for purpose for Luo Yang. Behind every portrait, we feel the invisible and peculiar stories: young adults already mature beyond their childish appearance, and those who act like the children they still are. Boys who defy the social code with their disturbing fragility, girls who proudly display their androgyny, couples in love.



## GIRLS

Luo Yang's main project "Girls", has revealed a part of contemporary China that is rarely taken note of in the West. Her portraits depict an emerging Chinese youth culture that defies imposed expectations and stereotypes: "Girls" are badass and self-aware with a supreme sense of cool, yet also insecure, vulnerable and torn. Underlying tensions and ambivalent emotions lend friction to Luo's images and deny a conclusive reading. Above all, her work is a testament to her subject's individuality. It explores themes of youth and femininity while challenging traditional beliefs about Chinese women. "Girls" thus also reflect a shifting mindset with regard to concepts of femininity and identity in modern China.



候鳥  
空間

Migrant  
Bird  
Space

## YOUTH

« Ba ling hou » (born after 80): this idiom refers to the first generation born under the one-child policy and during the reform and opening up led by Deng Xiaoping after the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). These are young people who grew up in a world which they were the center of, with Internet and social media, in a consumer society in total rupture with the preceding generations. Luo Yang belongs to this generation. Her portraits depict an emerging Chinese youth culture that defies imposed expectations and stereotypes. Her work is a testament to her subjects' individuality and personality. Femininity, gender, identity: she reflects the deep changes taking place in China today.



# EXHIBITIONS

## Solo-Exhibitions

- 2021 - “Luo Yang - Of All Kinds”, A2Z Art Gallery, Paris, France  
2020 - “Luo Yang - GIRLS, YOUTH” , Francisco Carolinum Museum, Linz, Austria  
2019 - “Luo Yang - Girls”, Moonduckling, Maison Dentsu, Paris, France  
2019 - “Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival - China Pulse”, Jimei Citizen Square exhibition Hall, Jimei, China  
2018 - “Luo Yang - Girls: 2008-2018”, Moonduckling, Woofpack Gallery/RDX Offsite, Bangkok, Thailand.  
2017 - “Girls” Book-Launch Exhibition, MO Industries & Edition Lammerhuber, Vienna  
2017 - “GIRLS”, MO Industries, the Opposite House, Beijing  
2016 - “Luo Yang - Girls”, MO Industries, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong  
2016 - “Luo Yang - Girls”, MO Industries, MO Industries Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
2009 - “LUO YANG Photography Exhibition”, Tai Kang Top Space, Beijing, China

## Group-Exhibitions

- 2022 - “Being Human: PHOTO 2022 International Festival of Photography”, Australia  
2022 - “Girls Girls Girls”, Lismore Castle Arts, Lismore, Ireland  
2022 - “Rooms Within China”, TOFU Collective, Asia House, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2021-22 “NUDE: the naked body in contemporary photography”, Fotografiska, Stockholm/ New York  
2021 - “Stepping Out: Female Identities in Chinese Contemporary Art”, Lillehammer Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2020 - “After Image: Experimental Field of Contemporary Photography”, 8th Jinan International Photography Biennale, Jinan, China  
2020 - “China Imagined”, Grote Kerk Breda, Breda Photo, the Netherlands  
2020 - “China Fever”, Migrant Bird Space, Berlin, Germany  
2018 - “Sworn Sisters”, Vermilion Art Gallery, Sydney  
2017 - “Photographing the Female”, Focus Photography Festival, Mumbai, India  
2016 - UN WOMEN “EVAW Art Exhibition (Elimination of Violence Against Women)”, Crossroads Centre, Beijing, China  
2015 - Artists Group Exhibition, Stieglitz19, Antwerp, Belgium  
2013 - Ai Weiwei “Fuck Off 2”, Groninger Museum, the Netherlands  
2011 - “Big Louder” Exhibition, Beijing, China  
2010 - “Roca Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Xiamen, Fujian, China  
2009 - “Guangzhou International Photography Biennale”, Guangzhou Art Museum, Guangzhou, China  
2009 - “Three Shadows Photography Award Exhibition”, Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, China



# selected PRESS



## **Photographer Luo Yang captures rare glimpse of China's 'brave and free' youth**

The Guardian, 19 May 2022, Virginia Harrison:

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/may/19/photographer-luo-yang-captures-rare-glimpse-of-chinas-brave-and-free-youth>

**apartamento**

## **Luo Yang**

Apartamento Magazine, Issue 27, 2021, Yining He:

<https://www.apartamentomagazine.com/stories/luo-yang/>

**METAL**

## **LUO YANG: The Strength of Vulnerability**

METAL Magazine, 20 April 2021, Sebastian T. Thorsted:

<https://metalmagazine.eu/en/post/interview/luo-yang-the-strength-of-vulnerability>

**HERO**

## **Chinese photographer Luo Yang is empowering Asian women with her intimate portraits of youth**

HERO, 19 March 2021, Stevie Cannell:

<https://hero-magazine.com/article/187269/luo-yang-girls-interview>



## **EYES WIDE SHUT: Sensual Uncertainty with Certain Sensuality - An Interview with Luo Yang**

FRÄULEIN Magazine, 7 March 2021, Carole Panet:

<https://www.fraeulein-magazine.eu/eyes-wide-shut-an-interview-with-photographer-luo-yang/>



## **Interview: Photographer Luo Yang is the Queen of China's Beautiful Youth**

RADII, 7 May 2020, Bryan Grogan:

<https://radiichina.com/luo-yang-photography/>

**AnOther**

## **Luo Yang's Portraits of China's 'Bold, Wild and True' Youth**

AnOther Mag, 13 November 2020, Orla Brennan:

<https://www.anothermag.com/art-photography/12948/luo-yang-girls-youthphotography-china-francisco-carolinum-museum>



**Selected Awards:**

Jimei X Arles Women Photographers Award 2019

Shortlisted for C/O Berlin Talent Award 2019

“BBC 100 WOMEN” , 2018

**Publications:**

“Luo Yang”, Migrant Birds, Berlin, 2022

“GIRLS, YOUTH”, ooeart, Linz, Austria, 2021

“Luo Yang GIRLS - monograph”, Edition Lammerhuber & MO-Industries, Vienna, 2017

“GIRLS ZINE”, EDITIONS BESSARD PUBLISH, Paris, 2015

“Rooms Within China”, TOFU Collective, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2021

# CONTACTS

Migrant Bird Space is a Berlin & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art agency services in China & Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing and Berlin, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with Museums, universities, private institutions and more.

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