



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

Luo Yang: En Tout Genre, A2Z Art Gallery, Paris, France 2021
GIRLS: 2008-2018, Woofpack Gallery/RDX Ofsite, Bangkok, Thailand 2018
GIRLS, MO & Edition Lammerhuber, Book-Launch Exhibition, Vienna 2017
GIRLS, MO-Industries, The OPPOSITE HOUSE Beijing 2017
GIRLS, MO-Industries, Hong Kong 2016
GIRLS, MO-Industries, Berlin 2016
LUO YANG Photography Exhibition, Tai Kang Top Space, Beijing, China 2009

Group-Exhibitions

Girls Girls Girls, Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland, 2022
Nude. From a Female-identifying Perspective, Fotografiska New York, New York, USA, 2022
Nude, Fotografiska Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden, 2021
Photographers, Artists And The Snap Cardigan, Galerie du Jour Agnès B, 2019
“Ten directions: the 10th Anniversary Exhibition of the Three Shadows Photography Award”, Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, China 2018
Vermilion Art Gallery, “Sworn sisters”, Sydney 2018
Poem, Zhong Gallery, Beijing, China 2017
Between Reality and Ideal: 40 Years of Chinese Photography (1976-2017), Three Shadows, Beijing, China 2017
Photographing the Female, Focus Photography Festival, Mumbai, India 2017
EVAW Art Exhibition, UN WOMEN, Crossroads Centre, Beijing, China 2016
Song Zhuang Art Center 10 Years, Group Show, Songzhuang Museum, Beijing, China 2016 Artists Group Exhibition, Stieglitz19, Antwerp, Belgium 2015
Ai Weiwei “FUCK OFF II” Groninger Museum, The Netherlands 2013
Big Louder, Beijing, China 2011
KIC “Small World” Open Art Exhibition, Shanghai, China 2010
Roca Contemporary Art Exhibition, Xiamen, Fujian, China 2010
Photography Season Beijing, Pasture Land, Beijing, China 2010
Photography Exhibition Lishui, Lishui, Zhejiang, China 2009
Multimedia Short Film Festival Southern, Southern Television, Guangzhou, China 2009
Guangzhou International Photography Biennale, Guangzhou Art Museum, China 2009
Art Photography Exhibition, Beijing Agriculture Exhibition Hall, Beijing, China 2009
Three Shadows Awards Show, Three Shadows Photography Centre, Beijing, China 2009
“Seventh Sense” Pingyao International Photography Exhibition, Pingyao, China 2008



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>

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/>



"Youth" by Photographer Luo Yang

BOOOOOOOM, September 2020, Anna:

<https://www.booooooom.com/2020/09/10/youth-by-photographer-luo-yang/>



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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