Taking a photographic record and make a memo to avoid to forget in the future

Lin Zhipeng aka No.223, March 2020

Time memo

I started taking these group of works in 2019 up to today, but I have never published them. Pictures published on social media are very random, and old works and new works are often mixed together. Arranging works has also become very slow, I more and more only enjoy the shooting process, as for the result of the works, it has become secondary. Because of the pandemic, the works that had been delayed for more than half a year were finally sorted out.

Only working with film is a bad habit. As far as possible, the prototype of the work forms when shooting, and I do not rely on later revision or synthesis. This is the way I am used to.

Photographing is an auxiliary device for memory retention. Nowadays, everyone runs extremely fast, and even their thinking changes every day, forgetting became the norm. That goes for me as well. My memory is not good, and I have to rely on images and pictures as memos for the future. For example, diaries and old photo albums, what you see becomes an image to help you not to forget in the future. It is very important to remember details, stories, places and situations... When we say, "don't forget!", we hope in the future to extract gratitude and pleasure from that particular memory. Of course, there are also pain and anger.



Random daily and impromptu fun

I am tired of purposeful shooting. I have been photographing for 16 years, focusing on topics close to me is the most comfortable way of carrying out my work. This include anything I have been growing up with: love and hate, observation, experience, walking, cause and effect, inside and outside. It is often said that the most satisfying thing is to complete all the shooting without any sense of duty, so as not to pressure yourself, and to achieve the goal easily without fear of success or failure. Trying too hard to determine the success or failure of a piece / group of works will only lead to prudence.

Therefore, according to this habit of taking photos, these works are what I encountered during travel, such as people on the beach, curvilinear tides and bubbles on the water. Another example are daily occurrences, flowers and trees in the dark, dogs showing its teeth, and the long-desired goldfish, now dead in the toilet.

When preparing for a shooting with bodies and landscapes, no matter if based on gathering with friends or an impromptu designing, some daily objects are taken as props, such as flowers on the buttocks, mushrooms on the body, and peppers in the hanging false teeth in the orchard. I am not particularly interested in conceptual photography, because it usually considers the concept first, and the picture second. I tend to focus on a particular condition and present it randomly. What is interesting, what can be narrated, what is abnormal, impromptu or without an order, all of this is lovely. In the end, I may unintentionally release the so-called concept, leaving the viewer with suspense. This is also interesting.



Taking pictures is life

I have an obsession for the good life, and this good life includes experiences, studying, results, accidents, freedom... It is a free life that comes from my confident character. Creating is the same. Being passionate for the present, feeling like doing something and then doing it, so that even if you lose all you passion one day, to the point where you hate creating, it will not be too painful. During their life, people will change their approach as time goes by, so it is best to peacefully enjoy the present.

In my early years, I was paranoid about photography. I would take good bright pictures, but I would also take dark ones. At that time, it was custom to burn the film, I maybe was in the early stages of shooting. I was curious and wanted to take pictures of everything. It does not mean that I lost my curiosity, on the contrary, going out from time to time and traveling from place to place are my process to cultivate curiosity. However now, I don't shoot everything I see, I have a choice. I need in front of me scenes that encourage me to press the shutter. I don't know if this is a good thing or a bad thing, but luckily, I still have the opportunity to do that.

Today's obsession is that I do not want to lose my memory of moments of life. As I said earlier, memories are too important for me. I use photography to make a record and make memos for the future, when I will not be able to remember. As for the way of shooting and the attitude towards photography, I just love it, everything else is optional.



Travels and the world

Travel is also a way to create memories, there is no need for a sense of belonging during travels. I am not a person who lacks a sense of caution, I like the vibe of being on the road. Everything is completely new, from a shell on the beach to a plant on the road-side, everything is different from what you see in the city. Whether in your hometown or on the streets of a foreign country, the best achievement is to find peculiarities in the exceptional.

We can see everything in the world through the camera lens, what comes out of it is only my personal feelings, which have nothing to do with other people. I try my best to interpret the occurrence of reality with my own artistic language. What everyone sees and feels is different, and so is the translation into images. However, my photography mostly includes my love and fantasy for life, my exploration of familiar and unknown things, as well as my desire to express emotions, love and hate. This is the only particular attribute in my mind (as I am a very ordinary, warm and pure person).

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