

HUMAN CONNECTION

Luo Yang, June 2022

Through her series of photographic works “Girls” and “Youth”, with the record of great emotional tension and explosive power from her models, Luo Yang explores the life and subtle emotional states of individuals with different generational and identity backgrounds in China’s unique social context. With the digitalization of every aspect of our lives, due to the pandemic, the existence and value of each person have been re-examined. However, Luo Yang with her camera lens keeps focusing on people’s individual essence, exploring people’s relationships and connections. She abandoned the stereotyped collective narration, to investigate on people’s true and lively individuality. Through authentic, vivid, bold and private personal image records, Luo Yang tries to establish emotional connection and interaction with the audience, conveying the power of individuality and emotional comfort all over the world.



GIRLS is Luo Yang ongoing series focusing on womanhood for over 10 years. Luo Yang followed and photographed more than 100 girls born in the 1980s, recording their physical and life changes in the successive years, as well as observing and capturing their subtle transition from adolescence to adulthood. During this process, the photographer herself expressed her own development, in order to capture the feelings of the models (and her own) as young women. These are confident, independent and cool girls, but they are also fragile, insecure and lacking sense of safety. Luo Yang's works present a more intimate aspect of girls, challenging the traditional image of women in the very conservative atmosphere in the Chinese society, becoming a mirror reflecting the incessant changes of the concept and identity of women in contemporary China.



As for YOUTH, on the other hand, this series records a culture that is gradually taking shape among China's current post-90s and post-00s young people, who are bravely resisting constraints and breaking prejudices. All these people crossing the camera lens are seeking a strong approval of their identity: tattoos, distinctive hairstyles with different colors... They change their appearance in a very unrestrained manner, to express their more personal side. Behind every picture, we can perceive all those peculiar stories that we cannot see: young people are gradually becoming mature, breaking away from their childish appearance, however, to some extent, their behavior is still as innocent and pure as a child. Boys use their uneasy fragility and sensitivity to resist social norms, and girls proudly display their dual gender, together with pure and free love.

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