
Senior Projects Spring 2022

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

Spring 2022

Near The Gem

Yimiao Zhang
Bard College

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Near The Gem

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts of Bard College

by
Yimiao Zhang

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York

May 2022

An image begins precisely when the noise stops. In the silencing moment, an intimacy is established. When I see my partner sitting in the bathtub, I see a person and the subtle indoor light on his body instead of a “portrait”; when I look around my surroundings, I see the plants on the streetside instead of “still life”. Therefore, I am able to expose the authenticity and originality of each moment, and to reinforce the expression of how I felt in that moment through photographic way. The subjects within my works physically exist, but images I made are an extensive set of feelings that do not exist in physical form.

Growing up in a city surrounded by endless mountains, I’ve always tried to explore what the world looks like beyond the mountains with my curious eyes. My curiosity brought me here to the United States, and later guided me on the way to the world of photography. The shooting process is a personal adventure investigating the curious feelings when hot water splashes on my hand, when sunlight spills on the unknown tree and when the snow touches a fertilizer package. Why am I here? What is the terminology of that plant? Why do people decide to design the ceiling like that? What would it be like if I walked into that forest? Who is the person I am in love with? What is the texture of his skin and his armpit? Driven by all these questions, I began my journey by looking for answers with my camera. I was obsessed with pulling off the curtain of mysteriousness within my life, wanting to go deep into that rabbit hole and to leave some traces to prove that I was once there. I often view my life and my relationship with photography as opening up a Pandora’s box that does not only contain evil, but also all types of unexpected events engraved by camera into a specific scene of my timeline.

I was there, near the people I love, the places I cherish, and the things I am passionate about. They are the gemstones that can only be discovered during this specific period of my life. I am grateful for the answers I have found through this project so that I can be confident in continuing my curiosity safari in this vast wildlife park named the world.

I dedicate this project to my amazing mom who has never stopped believing in me, loving me, and supporting me no matter how bad the situation could be. I would also like to thank my professor David Bush for introducing the magical world of photography into my life.



Near The Gem

Yimiao Zhang

SHOW

May 19th to May 22nd

RECEPTION

May 19th, 7pm-9pm

LOCATION

Woods Studio
23 Woods Avenue
Annandale On Hudson
NY 12504



To mama

Near The Gem

Yimiao Zhang

May 2022

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