

Awakening, Continuance, Demonstration
Jiang Wei

Zhang Xiao is a representative figure of outstanding Chinese young photographer. His "Coastline" series represents many aspects of urbanization process in China. By showing ordinary people's circumstances of the times, he keeps continuous observation and creates a personal skill pattern. His awareness of expression forms an interaction of daily life experience and inner heart self-thinking. These photos are rich in sensibility. Zhang Xiao has brilliant sense of balance between perception and color, landscape and tone. He is talented with this ability among young photographers in China.

About the implication of "Coastline", we may take a look at the photographer's own words. Zhang Xiao said like this:

"Great changes take place every day in China. All these are particularly obvious in China's coastal areas. A large number of migrant job-hunters rush to these areas continuously. Urbanization process keeps its rapid pace. There are hundreds of millions of people left their native place for works in coastal areas. While earth-shaking changes happening in China, many traditional values and lifestyle have been undermined, also Chinese traditional customs have been strongly impacted.

When I am a child I already know my desire to the sea, of it is mystery and with distance. And I am sure this mystery has nothing to do with the fact of can not swim. I came here only for those images with emotional conflict and abundance, and maybe for the existence of sadness and disappointment. The sea is the start of life and dream. Meanwhile I am also finding the homeland of my heart."

For me, Zhang Xiao's work is by no means of taking the advantage of simply interpret and symbolize a phenomenon, but to perceive the traces between the things which lens can see and can express. And the photos are not for recalling life and revealing the truth of world, but for truly experience and apperceive the equivalence of life. These photos are the process and result of his awakening, continuance and demonstration as a young photographer.

Zhang Xiao's photo is an continuing observation of personalization. His object is the individual underneath engaging surface and noisy speech, and also the individual incorporate in daily life. Photography for the interest of individual and daily life has implied knowledge: this kind of art is one of the most important resources of summarizing history. Photography offers a variety of uncertain experience, that is unnamed experience by any other subjects. For unnamed experience, it is because every individual has his own active state, which could not be captured by a single concept, a given conclusion or a common standpoint. The individuals that contemporary photography observes are plentiful. From ratiom, emotion, morality to every specific words and deeds, individuals in photography is not one-way involved in history, but connect multi-directionally to the social network.

Photographers have the background of broad experience and knowledge of our times. They must strike to learn and get another "knowledge", that is a direct knowledge of human and the world, as well as individual knowledge, ambiguity and ambiguous knowledge, imaginary, remote and adventure knowledge, all of which should be reflected and preserved in photography in this era.

Physicist Richard Feynman once said, "We are very fortunate to be able to live in the era of discovery." The life of Chinese people is showing a dramatic turning. Life is significantly differentiated into many complex layers. The relationship between human beings is rapidly diversified and full release of worldly flavor. Throughout the ages, we must immerse ourselves in daily life, and daily life as an integrated scope is fully and consciously aware by Chinese photographers. This is a meaningful and complex fact. If we dive into it, analyze it and quietly feel the production of life, this photography will never be like bubbles floating on life's surface.

These photos with grained texture and a solid quality taken by Zhang Xiao, are necessary to be placed into evaluation under the aforesaid background.

觉醒、存续、自证

姜纬

张晓是近年来从中国年轻摄影师里脱颖而出、广受瞩目的代表性人物。张晓的《海岸线》系列作品用镜头呈现出了中国城市化进程中的种种切割面，以及普通人的时代境遇，建构了个人化的持续观察的技能格局，他的话语自觉性形成了具体琐细的日常生活经验与自我内心思考的互为作用。这些照片，具有丰沛敏锐的感受力。张晓对知觉与色彩、景物与影调之间的平衡把握能力在国内年轻摄影师中堪称翘楚。

关于《海岸线》蕴涵着的意思，不妨看看摄影师自己是怎么说的。张晓述说道：

“中国每天都在发生着巨大的变化，这一切在中国的沿海地区显得尤为突出，大批的国人背井离乡潮水般的不断涌来。城市化进程持续高速，每年有几亿人在沿海地区打工。在中国面貌发生翻天覆地变化的同时，许多传统观念和生活习惯也被颠覆，中国人传统的生活习性受到了强烈的冲击。

小时候的我对大海就有一种渴望，觉得大海很神秘，无法接近。而且我确信这种神秘与我始终不会游泳没有任何关系。我只是来到这里寻找那些有着情感冲突和丰富的影像画面，或许还会有许多的伤感与失落。海是生命和梦想开始的地方，同时我也在寻找我内心的那个故乡。”

我想说的是，张晓的照片绝不是得益于对某种现象进行简单地解读或象征，而是为了感知镜头能够看见的事物与能够表现出的事物之间的轨迹；照片也不是匆忙的再现生活、试图囊括世界的真理，而是尽可能诚恳地去直觉和感受生活的对等物。这些照片是他作为年轻摄影师觉醒、存续、自证的过程和结果。

张晓的照片是个人化的持续观察，而他观察的对象，也是丰盛浮辞和喧闹表象之中的个人，以及个人在日常生活里的具体表现。摄影对于个人和日常生活的兴趣还隐含了一种知识：这个领域是总结历史的一个重要资源。摄影时常提供了各种未定的经验，即未经其他学科概念固定命名的经验。之所以未定，是因为每一个具体的个人在这些经验之中显现出十分活跃的状态，单一的概念、既定的结论或普遍性的立场还无法锁定。当代摄影观察到的个人是丰富纷杂的，从理性、情感、道德到各种具体的言行，摄影之中的个人并不是单向地参与历史，而是在社会关系中形成多向的网络。

摄影师们背靠着我们这个时代无以命名的宽阔复杂的经验与知识，他们必须主动求取和拥有另一种“知识”，那就是关于人与世界的直接的知识，个别的知识，含混的和暧昧的知识，想象的、偏僻的和冒险的知识，所有这一切在这个时代应该反映和保存在摄影中。

物理学家理查德·费曼说过：“我们非常幸运，能生活在继续有所发现的时代。”中国人的生活确实出现了急剧的转折，生活的大幅度分化形成了众多复杂的层次，人与人的关系图谱迅速多元化，充满世俗气息的日常生活被释放

出来。古往今来，我们每一天都必须沉浸在日常生活之中，而日常生活作为一个完整的范畴被中国摄影师充分、自主意识到，这是一个意味深长的事实。潜入这些生活，条分缕析，沉静感受生活的对等物，这种摄影才不至于如同泡沫似地浮游在生活的表面。

张晓这些纹理细密、质地坚实的照片，有必要放在上述背景之中被评估。
