



PHOTO LONDON

11 - 14 MAY 2023 | SOMERSET
HOUSE

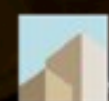
HAILUN MA
CATALOGUE

FT Weekend

Candlestar



Hahnemühle



高台当代艺术中心
GAOTAI GALLERY

Hailun Ma Solo Exhibition

at Photo London 2023
Somerset House
Gaotai Gallery
Booth D23





Fire exit



Hailun Ma Solo Exhibition

at Photo London 2023

Somerset House

Gaotai Gallery

Booth D23



Hailun Ma Solo Exhibition
at Photo London 2023
Somerset House
Gaotai Gallery
Booth D23



Hailun Ma (b.1992, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China) moved to New York in 2013 to study BFA Photography and then MPS Fashion Photography at the School of Visual Arts. Her fashion photography experience in New York inspired her to rediscover her hometown of Xinjiang differently: In the artist's explorative artworks since 2018, she has shown an appreciation for Xinjiang's modern culture, female fashion and the characters of the new generation of post-1990s.

Hailun Ma is one of the most influential emerging photographers in China among the new generation. She has already appeared in nearly a dozen individual and group exhibitions in various venues, from New York to Miami to Mumbai and her native China. Just as impressive, her work has been featured, and she herself has been profiled in many influential publications, including NYLON, New York Magazine, i-D magazine, and Artinfo. In the past three years, Hailun Ma has held four solo exhibitions at Gaotai Gallery (Urumqi), Mine Project (Hong Kong), and Alter (Shanghai), and has been listed in photo collections of many art museums and institutions worldwide, including White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney), SONG ART Gallery(Beijing), X Museum(Beijing), Guangshe Photography Art Center (Beijing).

SOLO EXHIBITION:

“Uruklyn”, Gaotai Gallery, Urumqi, 2021
“SHE/POSITION ” Mine Project Gallery, Hongkong, 2021
“Gravity and Rainbow” Alter Gallery, Shanghai, 2019
“Hometown”, Gaotai Gallery, Urumqi, 2019

GROUP EXHIBITION:

PERSONAL: A NEW FORM OF DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY, SCOP, Shanghai, 2023
Disconnected Generation, Song Art Museum, Beijing, China
The Endless Garment, X Museum, Beijing, 2022
Tradition@Present: Timeless Style of Chinese Ethnic Attire, Nantong, China, 2022
Infiltrate Slowly, Group exhibition, Wuhan, China, Nov 2021
Dancing with Xinjiang, Group exhibition, MWOODS, Beijing, China, July 2021
Photography of Northwest China since 1870, Yinchuan, China, June 2021
Runaway World 2020, Group exhibition, Gaotai Gallery, Urumqi, China, 2020
Be There Design Festival, Hongkong, Dec 2018
Photographing the female, Studio Sonam, Mumbai, April 2017
MARYMARY project at Miami project Booth No.366 625, Miami project, December 2016

FEATURED & INTERVIEW

TMagazine China 2022
Instyle Magazine 2021
VOGUE China 2021
NYLON China, 2019
Ming's HK 2018
NYLON China 2018
It Nice That 2018
The Metal Magazine 2018
The New Yorker, Photobooth 2018
Nylon Magazine online April 2017
New York Magazine Bridal Issue cover story March 2017
i.D magazine Feb 2017

NEIGHBORHOOD

2 0 2 3

“Neighborhood” is an exploration of memory and street culture. Hailun Ma recreated a Xinjiang courtyard from her memory of the 1990s on the streets of Shanghai, using her recordings of different images, behaviors, and scenes to present a collective memory of a generation.



Neighborhood

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 120x85cm/180x130cm

Edition: 5+3+2 APs

Year: 2023



Neighborhood

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 120x85cm/180x130cm

Edition: 3+5+2 APs

Year: 2023

X I N J I A N G F A S H I O N G U I D E

2020

Hailun Ma's initial photography of Xinjiang fashion and aesthetics stemmed from her reflection on fashion photography. She was tired of the repetitive so-called high-end fashion because it was too far removed from our lives. So, how can we redefine what future fashion is from our own perspective? Ma Hailun thought back to her own fashion experiences as a child, and through her lens, she tried to show the young, contemporary, and culturally potent side of Xinjiang and rebuild the connection with this land.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ma Hailun used fashion photography techniques in her Shanghai studio to create the "Xinjiang Fashion Guide," reshaping her memories of Xinjiang's fashion elements: headscarves, silk stockings, nail art, and more. Unlike the single expression of Xinjiang shown in Google searches, Ma Hailun attempted to use her own aesthetic to express her hometown in a new way.



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 35x52cm/66x100cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2020



Xinjiang Fashion Guide
Medium: Archival Pigment Print
Size: 66x100cm
Edition:5-6/6+1AP
Year: 2020

X I N J I A N G C O W B O Y S

2 0 1 9

"Xinjiang Cowboys" is a combination of the fashion metaphor of Kazakh nomadic culture and American Western cowboy elements: the vibrant grassland, the wild but shy look of Kazakh boys, and the exquisite and sleek Western cowboy attire together depict the unique traditional temperament of ethnic minorities in the border areas. Ma Hailun, through her perspective, adds a global and fashionable touch to these Kazakh cowboys.



Xinjiang Cowboys

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2019



Xinjiang Cowboys

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2019



Xinjiang Cowboys

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2019



Xinjiang Cowboys

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2019



Xinjiang Cowboys

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2019



Xinjiang Cowboys
Medium: Archival Pigment Print
Size: 45x60cm/66x99cm
Edition: 4+6+1 AP
Year: 2019

HOMETOWN

2018

Hailun Ma returned to Xinjiang in 2018 and decided to use her lens to record the beautiful “hometown” from her memory. When talking about how she drew inspiration from her hometown, Hailun commented: “I am familiar and in love with everything about Xinjiang, which, in turn, profoundly affects my works. Xinjiang has a unique color. The color is shiny and bright with a high degree of saturation and a little sparking under the sun. These factors exert an impact on how I shoot my photos and choose my colors because this is the world in my eyes.”

Artists and photographers are easy to have heavy feelings when presenting themes like hometown. Her works do not carry that heaviness, yet reveals her emotions and attitudes. Although she did not experience the changes in her hometown within a decade, the “Hometown” photos kept pace with the times owing to her irreplaceable experiences.



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



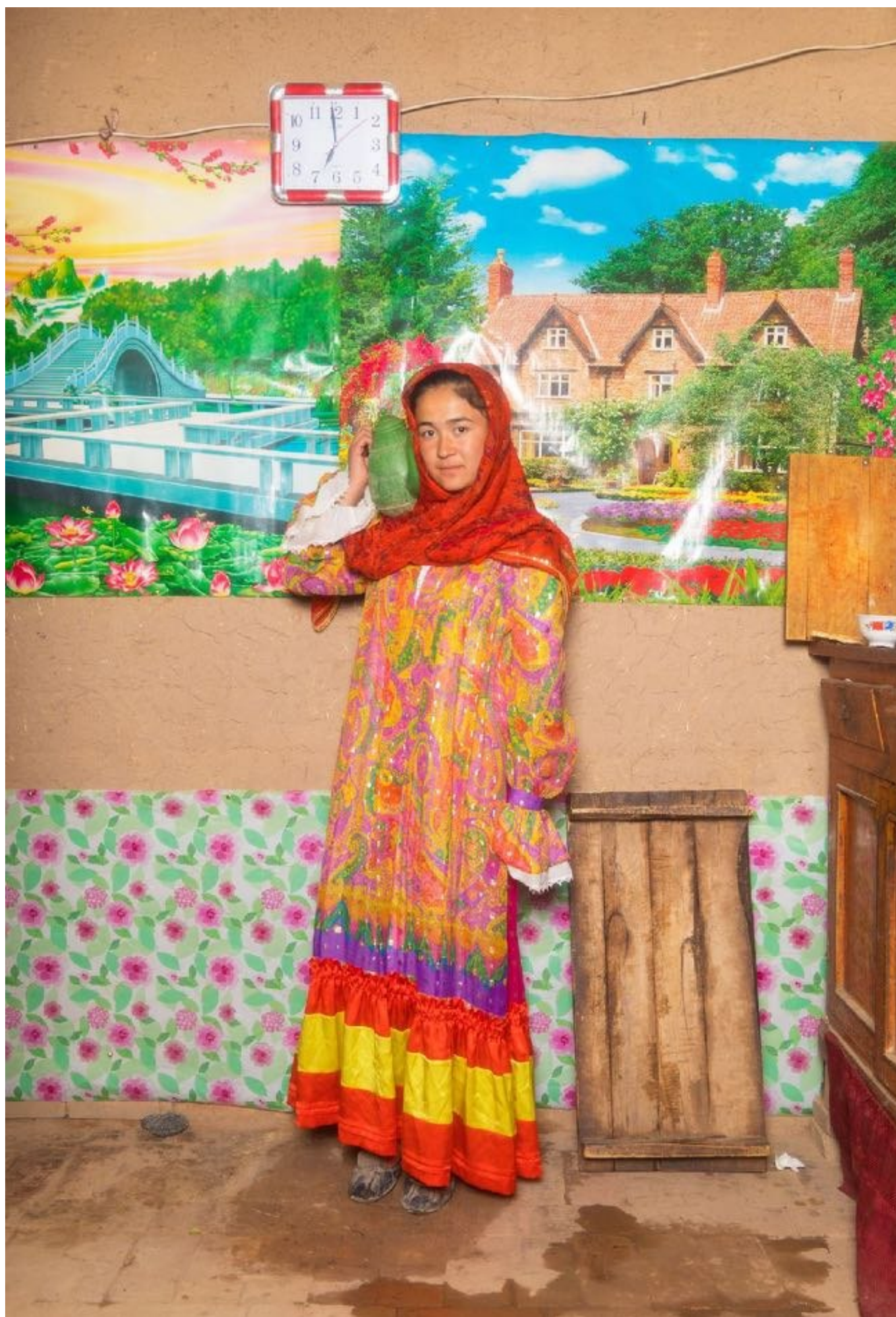
Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Hometown

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 59x50cm/100x83cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018

Sold Out

URUKLYN

2021

Uruklyn is a series of works by Hailun Ma since 2021, including a public project to take portraits of city dwellers in Xinjiang and an art photography project aiming to express the street culture of local youth.

Uruklyn is a combination of the city name of Urumqi and Brooklyn. In Hailun's eyes, Urumqi and Brooklyn have a lot in common: diverse, inclusive, and have a strong trace of street culture.

Hailun's creative works also open a new window for the viewers to approach Xinjiang and help them understand this region in a new perspective.



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 80x55cm/120x80cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 80x55cm/120x80cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x40cm/100x67cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



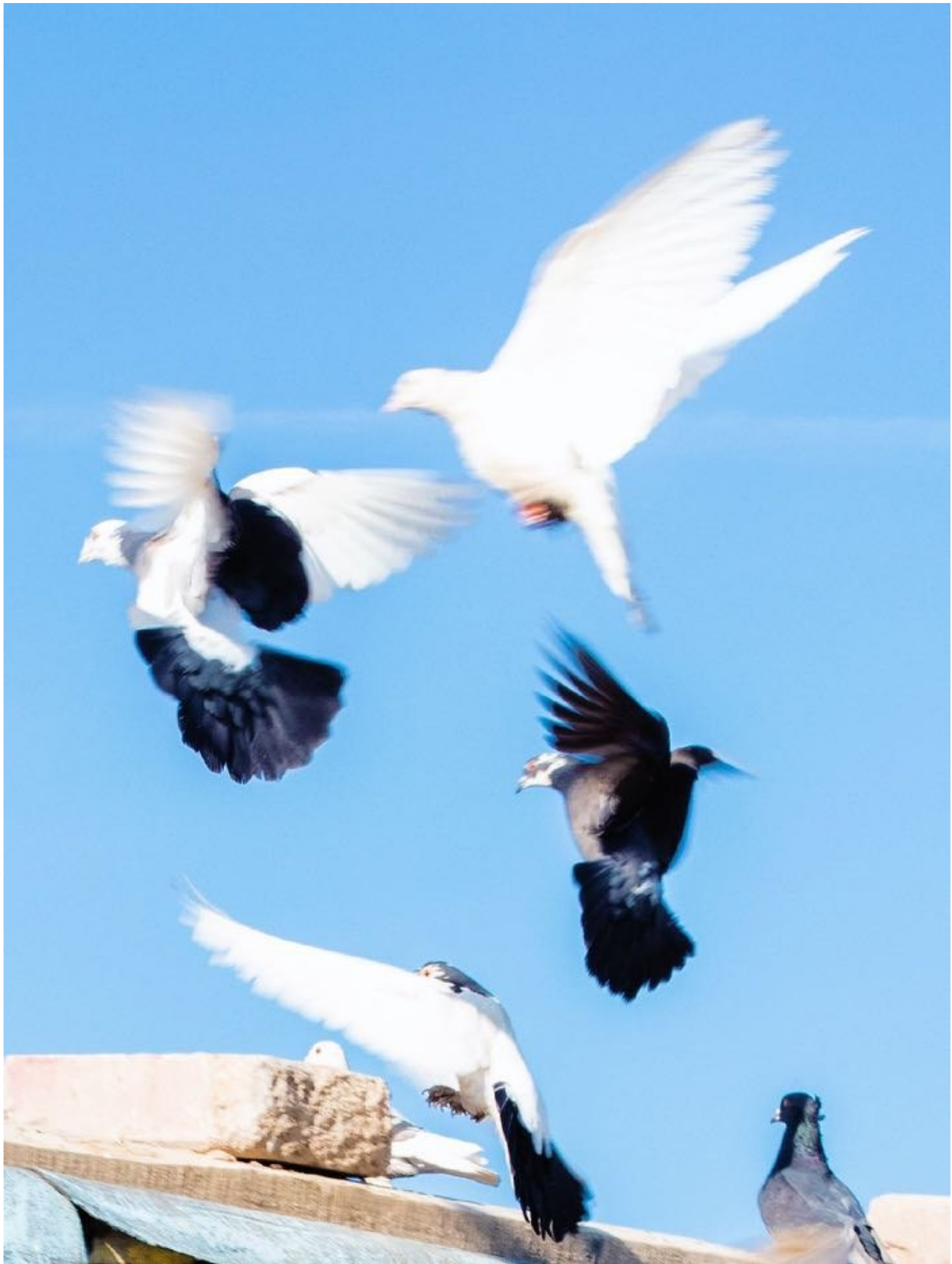
Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Uruklyn

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x72cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2021



Heaven is at the feet of mothers
Medium: Archival Pigment Print
Size: 80x59/120x89cm
Edition: 3+3+2APs
Year: 2021

LOVERS

2021–

Hailun Ma launched a new filming project on "cross-ethnic love" in Xinjiang, based on her own love story. This topic has not received much attention, and the conservative social atmosphere in Xinjiang at the time made Ma Hailun firmly decide to film after three years.

In multi-ethnic regions like Xinjiang, cross-ethnic relationships have always existed but have not been widely seen. Behind this reality is the emotional situation and family and social structures, closely intertwined. Often, love is filled with fear of an uncertain future and concern about social discourse. The stories of these cross-ethnic individuals and the transformative power of emotional resonance have not had a chance to be shared. In this filming of "cross-ethnic love," Ma Hailun will focus the lens on lovers from different ethnic backgrounds, recording their love stories about "choice," of which she herself is a member and the first participant to be filmed.

"This is a topic that I have always wanted to film but has been put on hold every time. It is not only because cross-ethnic love is 'difficult,' but more importantly, it is what I am experiencing myself."



Lovers (Bilal&Hailun Ma)

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 80x55cm/120x85cm

Edition: 4+6+1AP

Year: 2021



Lovers

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

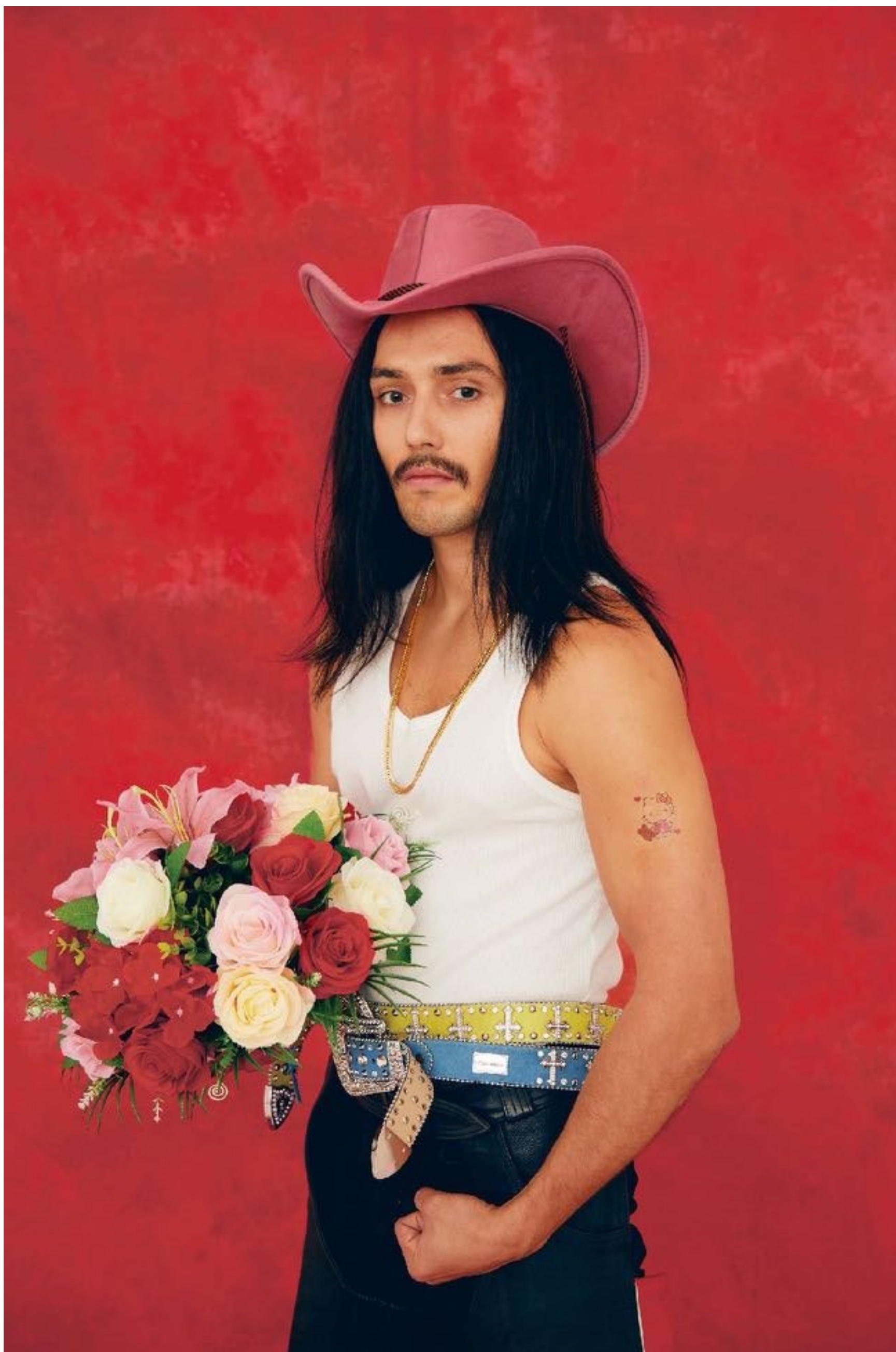
Size: 80x55cm/120x85cm

Edition: 4+6+1AP

Year: 2021

SOUTHERN XINJIANG

2018



Southern Xinjiang

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Southern Xinjiang

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Southern Xinjiang

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018

GOAL SISTERS

2018



Goal Sisters

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Goal Sisters

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018



Goal Sisters

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 60x45cm/99x66cm

Edition: 4+6+1 AP

Year:2018

MALIK

2019

During a shoot in Yili, Xinjiang in October 2019, Ma Hailun encountered an 18-year-old amateur boy named Malike. The keen eye of the fashion photographer prompted her to change her itinerary and complete the shoot at Malike's home. Continuing the creative idea of the "Hometown" series, Ma Hailun once again used her lens to establish a relationship between fashion, the character, and the scene in everyday real-life situations, sharing a unique hometown perspective. This series also responds to the current popular discussions about the boundaries between fashion and art.



Malik

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 28x43cm

Edition: 10

Year: 2019



Malik

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 28x43cm

Edition: 10

Year: 2019

K A Z A K H B R I D E

2019

"The Kazakh Bride" focuses the lens on women: a stylish Kazakh girl with braids and leopard-print socks lying on a red floral mat, with a similarly bright red tapestry and five elderly Kazakh men wearing headscarves behind her. By creating a collision between "youth and age," "fashion and tradition," the artist opens a door to Xinjiang, not only hoping to help people outside of Xinjiang understand this land through her lens but also to help those living in Xinjiang rediscover the beauty.



Kazakh Bride

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 尺寸: 75x50cm/100x83cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2019

Sold Out



Kazakh Bride

Medium: Archival Pigment Print

Size: 尺寸: 35x52cm/69x99 cm

Edition: 3+3+2APs

Year: 2019

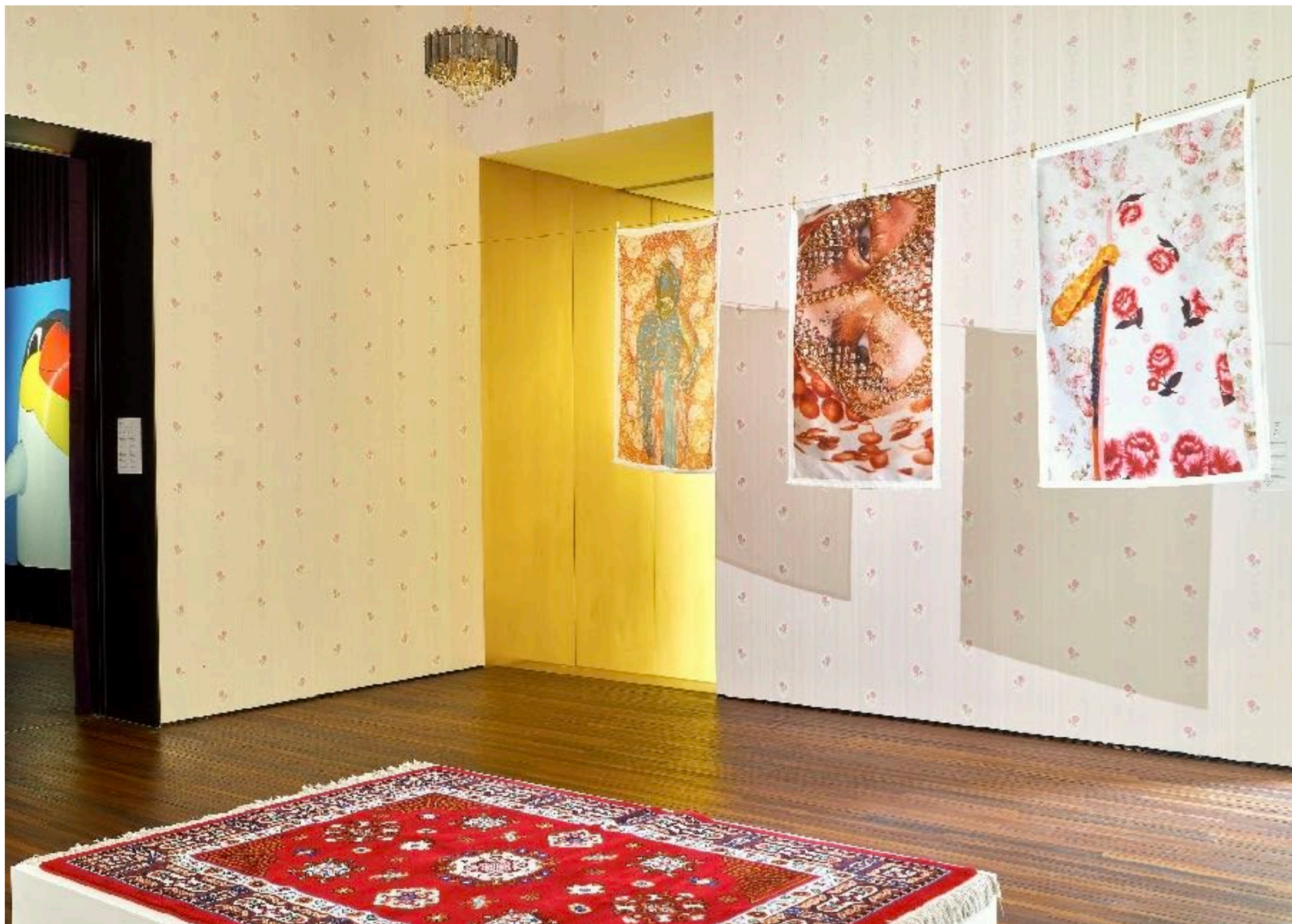
INSTALLATION VIEW



PERSONAL: A NEW FORM OF DOCUMENTARY
PHOTOGRAPHY, SCOP, Shanghai, 2023



PERSONAL: A NEW FORM OF DOCUMENTARY
PHOTOGRAPHY, SCOP, Shanghai, 2023



Disconnected Generation, Song Art Museum,
Beijing, China

高台当代艺术中心



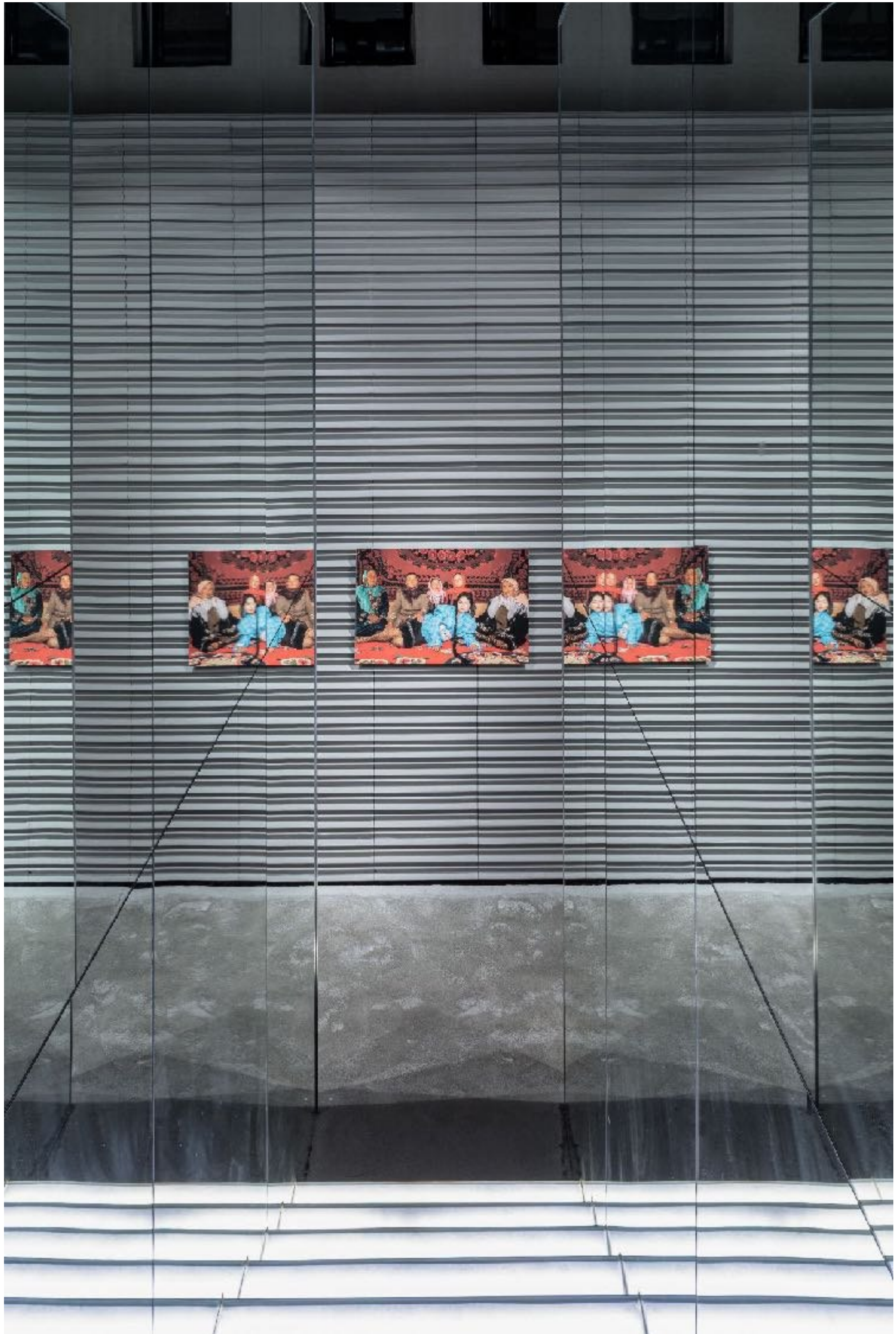
“SHE/POSITION” Mine Project Gallery, Hongkong, 2021



“Uruklyn” ,Gaotai Gallery, Urumqi, 2021



Infiltrate Slowly, Group exhibition, Wuhan, China, Nov 2021



The Endless Garment, X Museum, Beijing, 2022



The Endless Garment, X Museum, Beijing, 2022

P r e s s



Kazakh Bride, shot in Yili, Xinjiang in 2019. Photographed by Hailun Ma

CULTURE

A Distinctive Soul: Hailun Ma's Diverse Portraits of China

BY MENG-YUN WANG

May 18, 2022

There is a common preconception about what Chinese people look like, but the country's population—which includes 56 different ethnic groups—is far from monolithic. For

<https://www.vogue.com/article/hailun-ma-diverse-portraits-of-china>

1/22

2023/5/8 18:31

A Distinctive Soul: Hailun Ma's Diverse Portraits of China | Vogue

photographer Hailun Ma, a desire to showcase the melting pot of cultures that make up her native Xinjiang, in northwestern China, has informed some of her most compelling work.

“What I shoot is always about home—it's very instinctive and emotive,” says the 30-year old, whose C.V. includes covers for *Vogue* China and work with brands like Nike and Burberry. As a child, she discovered her love of photography by placing a camera on a bookshelf and taking “Cindy Sherman-esque” self-portraits with a timer, often in different outfits stolen from her mother's wardrobe. Yet it would take leaving home for Ma to find her own creative voice. At the age of 18, she went to study in New York, and it was while getting her MPS in fashion photography at the School of Visual Arts that she hit upon what she really wanted to express. “It was the first time I was asked to consider what fashion meant to me, and how I define beauty,” she explains over the phone from Shanghai. “It directly channelled back to my memories growing up in Xinjiang.”

2023/5/8 18:31

A Distinctive Soul: Hailun Ma's Diverse Portraits of China | Vogue

photographer Hailun Ma, a desire to showcase the melting pot of cultures that make up her native Xinjiang, in northwestern China, has informed some of her most compelling work.

“What I shoot is always about home—it's very instinctive and emotive,” says the 30-year old, whose C.V. includes covers for *Vogue* China and work with brands like Nike and Burberry. As a child, she discovered her love of photography by placing a camera on a bookshelf and taking “Cindy Sherman-esque” self-portraits with a timer, often in different outfits stolen from her mother's wardrobe. Yet it would take leaving home for Ma to find her own creative voice. At the age of 18, she went to study in New York, and it was while getting her MPS in fashion photography at the School of Visual Arts that she hit upon what she really wanted to express. “It was the first time I was asked to consider what fashion meant to me, and how I define beauty,” she explains over the phone from Shanghai. “It directly channelled back to my memories growing up in Xinjiang.”

2023/5/8 18:31

A Distinctive Soul: Hailun Ma's Diverse Portraits of China | Vogue



A mother and child in Urumqi, Xinjiang, in 2021. Photographed by Hailun Ma

With a landmass of 620,000 square miles (nearly four times the size of California), the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is China's largest province, made up of vast swathes of largely uninhabited mountains and deserts. As the country's western frontier, Xinjiang shares borders with Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and

India, and is notable for having a large number of ethnic groups. Although the Uyghurs and Han Chinese form the majority, Mongolians, Hui, Kazakhs, Tatars, and Russians live there too, each with their own language and customs.



<https://www.vogue.com/article/hailun-ma-diverse-portraits-of-china>

4/22

Turpan, Xinjiang in 2021. Photographed by Hailun Ma



Brother, shot in Altay, Xinjiang in 2021.

Photographed by Hailun Ma

Ma is Han Chinese, but growing up in the provincial capital of Urumqi, the vibrant colors of her friends' traditional dress captured her imagination. "In some ways I feel like a go-between," she explains. "My boyfriend is Uyghur, my best friend is Hui...I think that expression of a 'third culture kid' really applies to me."

In her work, she wanted to promote the cultural richness of her hometown, a facet that tends to be overlooked in mainstream depictions of China. "When you walk along the streets, you see people who are fair with blue eyes or those that look more South Asian, so I never grew up thinking all Chinese looked the same way I do," she says. "If you search for images of Xinjiang online, you get these very *National Geographic* images—stunning landscapes and maybe a smiling old man from a nomadic tribe. I wanted to present a younger perspective of what is happening."

h

Her project mirrors certain global sentiments, as subcultures and minorities across the world find creative representation. And at a time when globalization and social media have created a unified aesthetic lens and shared aesthetic values, Ma is doing her best to show a side of China with a distinctive soul. "Subconsciously I was very influenced by what I learned about family, belonging, and community in New York," she says. "When I first came back to China in 2018, there wasn't much awareness of differences between regional cultures, but increasingly, the younger generation is looking for alternate forms of expression."



Hometown, 2018, shot in Urumqi. Photographed by Hailun Ma

At first, she thought that only locals would identify with her images of women carrying loose change in socks, or the henna used by Uyghurs, but by depicting Xinjiang's distinctive traits, Ma found a visual language with international resonance. "I got so many responses from Mexico, India, and also from Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan and Tajikistan," she notes. There were parallels with other places, too: When she first learned about the American West—about ranchers and their "denim and American Camels"—in New York, her first reaction was: "Xinjiang has this!" In 2019, Ma journeyed to the northern reaches of the province to produce a series of portraits depicting these nomadic herdsmen, entitled *Kazak Cowboy*.



Photographed by Hailun Ma

In a new series of portraits, Ma portrays four different Xinjiang families now living in Shanghai: an Uyghur mother and son, a Kazakh girl and her Spanish boyfriend, and three generations of Mongolian women. "The concept of family is central to my work—both the nuclear family and the community," she says. A celebration of beauty in diversity, the vibrant colors of the landscape, and the importance of family traditions—they are all part and parcel of an exquisite point of view.

<https://www.vogue.com/article/hailun-ma-diverse-portraits-of-china>

12/22

2

It's Nice That

Championing Creativity
Since 2007

Search for something Categories



Hailun Ma returns to China to document the vibrant and startling fashion of her hometown



Words Emma Latham
Phillips

[Work](#)

[Photography](#)

1 August 2018



A few years back, Hailun Ma found herself six and a half thousand miles from home, having swapped life in the mountainous Chinese province of Xinjiang to study fashion photography in New York City,

It was in New York that the very idea of what, precisely, “high fashion” meant to her became confused. It was a world unlike anything she’d known at home, and yet, back home, she remembers “everyone having an amazing style.”

“Growing up, I was fascinated with how colourful

The Latest

View more from

[Photography](#)

Michelle Watt’s surrealist imagery tells complex and delicate stories of the Asian-American experience

and vibrant the Uyghur traditional clothing was”, Hailun tells It’s Nice That. “How they mixed and matched their outfits and how they understood trends and styles”. Nostalgic for her childhood and longing to show the world where she came from, Hailun journeyed back to Xinjiang. There, she met with old friends and strangers, “who invited me into their house for tea and a conversation”. The journey enabled her to re-establish a connection with fashion. The results are sublime.

Hailun has always been fascinated by fancy dress; as a child she used to set a camera on timer and act out in front of it, pretending to be different characters. These images are a return to those memories; we see children wearing layered garments, piles and piles of fabric and patterns as if they’d just been let loose on their mum’s wardrobe. As we gaze at the images, we return to those playful childhood days where we rampaged through the toybox.

The photographs are colourful, unrestrained and bright, similar to the setting. “Xinjiang is such a colourful place with lots of beautiful nature”, Hailun tells us. “You know when you walk into a sunny day, everything just seems so colourful, and that’s how I felt every day when I grew up”.

Not only do the models wear beautiful, vibrant outfits but they are also paired with amazing backgrounds; floral wallpaper is pasted on the walls behind them, and luscious rugs are spread out under their feet; rich reds and pinks, pops and bursts of green and yellow litter the photographs. Though we are aware that she’s returned to a place of less material wealth, far removed from the hedonism and materialism of New York, the location appears opulent in its own spectacular way, highlighting how our opinions about these places can often be misguided. You don’t need to be wealthy to have style.

The fashion editorial combines designer clothes

similar to those the models would actually wear, with the model’s own outfits. Hailun believes fashion can give people a sense of power; it defines who you are. “It can tell you a lot about a person and a culture without using one word”, the photographer explains, and this is exactly what this series does. The beauty and depth of the Uyghur and Kazakh people is spoken through their illustrious and startling garments.



Above Hailun Ma: Hometown

FEB 26 WOMAN CRUSH WEDNESDAY: HAILUN MA

WOMAN CRUSH WEDNESDAY (/CULTURE/CATEGORY/WOMAN+CRUSH+WEDNESDAY)

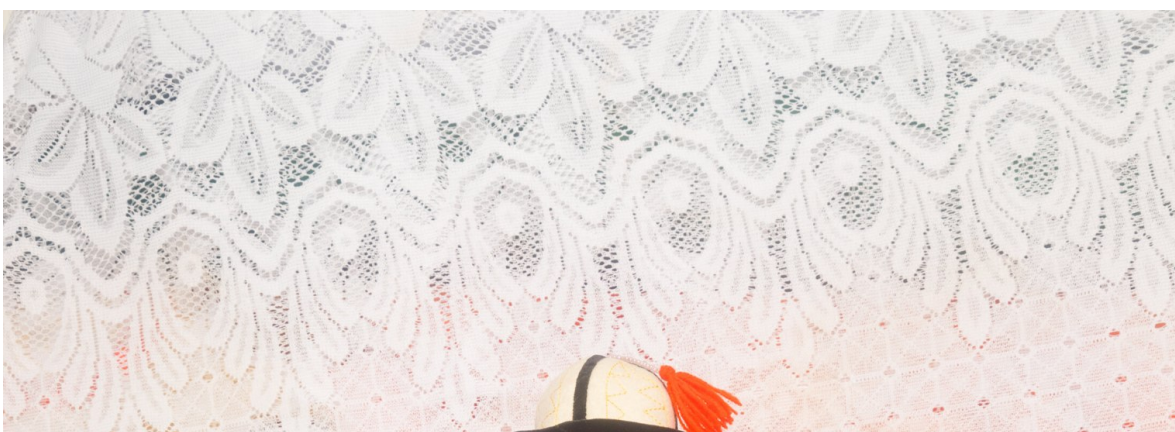


From *Hometown* by Hailun Ma.

Interview by Adrian Knowler (<https://museemagazine.com/search?q=adrian%20knowler>)

Why was it important for you to represent children in this series?

At the beginning my idea was to reconnect myself with fashion, illustrating what fashion means to me, rooted in my experience as a kid from Xinjiang province, China. Gradually, through, my trip went deeper into southern Xinjiang, and I started to focus more on the people and their way of living, and their circumstances. Kids are the future of Xinjiang, and many of them are in poverty and lack proper education. I wanted to include them in this series that focused on the fashion and culture.

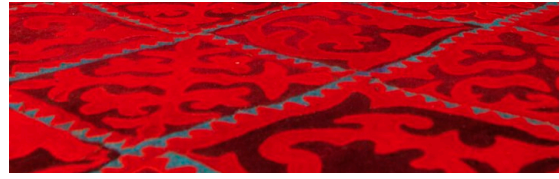




From *Hometown* by Hailun Ma.

Your portraits evoke a formal aesthetic, but is rich with cultural objects that are uniquely tied to the region and its people. What are you trying communicate about Xinjiang in this series?

At first, as I said, it was more a fashion focused series to show my aesthetic and what I think is fashion to me. Then along my trip it become more than that, As someone born and raised in Xinjiang, I constantly felt we were a outcast of the mainstream culture, overlooked and misunderstood by most of people, not only by Chinese people from other provinces, but also by foreigners. For lots of people, pictures of Xinjiang are of the “National Geographic” type, reportage about political conflict or about scandals, in a newspaper. To me, it is a beautiful and a unique place, from the landscape to the culture - there is no place like Xinjiang and it's my home.



From *Hometown* by Hailun Ma.

I wanted to show Xinjiang in a way that never been showed, and I felt a sense of responsibility to somehow reconstruct or save the beautiful and rich Uyghur and Kyrgyz cultures. By doing so, I wanted to open doors: To outsiders, I wanted to show another side of Xinjiang, and to people from the province, I want us to be proud of our unique culture. Lastly, I want to build the bridge between the Chinese and other ethnicities who live in Xinjiang, in order to understand and appreciate each other.



From *Hometown* by Hailun Ma.

The Uyghur population is almost never represented in mainstream media or photography. What statement are you trying to make about these people, and how is your work received in the West? How are these photos received in China?

When the work is showed in West, people are more curious about Xinjiang — what it is like, and they have political questions. When I showed in China, people were astonished by how beautiful Xinjiang is, it exceeds their expectations about this remote part of China. Last November, I showed this body of work in my hometown, Urumqi, and it was very special for me, to show it in Xinjiang. People's reaction to my work was precious to me. Some thanked me for doing this project, I especially remember a Kyrgyz girl came up to me and was so excited, she thanked me for taking such beautiful photos of Kyrgyz people, and she said it was her first time feeling that someone was interested in her culture.

T H A N K Y O U

Gallery Contact
Director: Musa/Xing MA
15501010126 (Wechat)
musa@gaotaigallery.com

 高台当代艺术中心
GAOTAI GALLERY

