

Yizhen Aaron Zhang

Global Award-Winning Photographer & Visual Artist

Specializing in street fashion, editorial, and documentary storytelling, creating high-impact visuals for global brands, publications, individuals, and cultural institutions.

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Education

School of Visual Arts

Photo, Video and Related Media

09/2022 - 05/2024

MFA / Master of Fine Arts

University of Miami

Economics / Fine Art Photography

08/2016 - 05/2020

BA / Bachelor of Arts

Membership and Distinctions

Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society (FRPS)

The Royal Photographic Society (RPS), United Kingdom · Awarded 2025

The FRPS is the highest and most prestigious distinction awarded by the Royal Photographic Society, one of the world's oldest and most respected photography institutions, founded in 1853 under the patronage of Queen Victoria. One of only 650 or so living Fellows of the RPS globally.

Click Pro Elite

Click Community · Accepted March 2025

Scored 34/35 in professional portfolio review by a panel of experts. Recognized for exceptional use of light, technical precision, and creative intention.

Projects

Behind the Glory

Ongoing Project | Various Locations

Photography

- A long-term documentary photography project capturing the lives of underrepresented populations in both major urban centers like Toronto, New York, and Miami, as well as smaller regions in countries such as the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.
- The project, ongoing for four to five years, explores the evolving landscapes and daily lives of these communities, offering a profound and evolving visual narrative over time.
- Through extensive travel and in-depth observation, the project highlights the contrast between bustling metropolises and the rich, vibrant cultures of smaller nations, creating a nuanced portrayal of humanity across diverse environments.
- Image(s) recognized with **Awards**:

RUNNER-UP, *Wild Photo Awards*

HONORABLE MENTION, *Earth Photography Contests | Nat Photo Society*

HONORABLE MENTION, *Berlin Photo Awards 2025*

PLATINUM WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -Documentary Narratives*

PLATINUM WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -People*

PLATINUM WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -Conflict*
PLATINUM WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -Travel Series*
GOLD WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -Black and White*
GOLD WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -People Series*
GOLD WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -Street Series*
GOLD WINNER, *London Photography Awards -Tavel*
GOLD WINNER, *London Photography Awards -Black & White*
GOLD WINNER, *London Photography Awards -Street Series*

- Image(s) Selected for **Exhibitions**:

URBAN LANDSCAPE EXHIBITION, *Independent & Image Art Space, China*
BLACK & WHITE EXHIBITION, *Praxis Photographic Arts Center, USA*
DIVERSITY, *PhotoSC, USA*

Win or Lose

2023 - 2024 | New York City, New York

Photography / Documentary Film / Photo-book

- Independently produced multimedia documentary project from concept to delivery: The photography and film components were crafted to competition standard. Photo shot with professional-grade post-processing in Adobe PS/LR/BR; edited and color-graded the documentary film in PR/AU; designed a 120-page photo-book in ID, pending 2025 publication.
- Project chronicling the life of Win Tang, a Chinese immigrant confronting legal and cultural challenges in the U.S. With a focus on nuance and empathy, the project offers an unfiltered yet non-political perspective on Asian immigrant life, exploring themes of systemic vulnerability and resilience without imposing critique.

- Project recognized with **prestigious Awards**:

2nd Prize Professional, *IPA2025 International Photography Awards: Photo -People -Other*
Top5 Jury Selection, *IPA2025 International Photography Awards: Photo -People -Other*
Top5 Jury Selection, *IPA2025 International Photography Awards: Book -People*
HONORABLE MENTION, *IPA2025 International Photography Awards: Book -People*
FINALIST, *Gomma Grant 2024*
FINALIST, *Siena International Photo Awards*
BRONZE WINNER, *Budapest International Foto Awards: People Photography -Lifestyle*
BRONZE WINNER, *Tokyo International Foto Awards: People Photography -Lifestyle*
GOLD WINNER, *Muse Photography Awards -People*
GOLD WINNER, *London Photography Awards -Documentary*
SILVER WINNER, *Global Photography Awards: People Photography -Culture*

SILVER WINNER, *Global Photography Awards: People Photography -Lifestyle*

SILVER WINNER, *New York Photography Awards: People Photography -People*

SILVER WINNER, *New York Photography Awards: People Photography -Lifestyle*

SILVER WINNER, *New York Photography Awards: People Photography -Cultural*

SILVER WINNER, *New York Photography Awards: People Photography -Portrait*

- Project selected for **Public Exhibitions**:

STORY EXHIBITION, *A Smith Gallery, USA*

HOME EXHIBITION, *Praxis Photographic Arts Center, USA*

INEQUALITY EXHIBITION, *Roseberry Photo Studios, UK*

EXHIBITION, *Chania International Photo Festival, Greece*

PHOTOMETRIA FESTIVAL 2025, *Photometria Festival, Greece*

EXHIBITION, *FotoDoc Photo Contest 2025, Brazil*

Chinatown Storytelling Plaques

2024 - 2025 | Chinatown, New York

Photography / Documentary Film

- Commissioned by Chinatown BID, this 10-episode documentary series captures the vibrant cultural and historical essence of New York's Chinatown.
- Served as the exclusive cinematographer and photographer, leading five months of filming that combined intimate interviews with residents and explorations of historic architecture.
- Integrated interactive QR codes placed at significant landmarks, transforming everyday locations into digital gateways to Chinatown's rich heritage. The project is anticipated to receive over 500,000 views due to high foot traffic and strategic placement.
- Featured across Chinatown's official social media platforms, significantly increasing visibility and engagement within the community. The project not only showcases the local culture but also strengthens the visibility of the Chinese community in the U.S., enabling a broader audience to learn about and appreciate the rich history and contributions of this group.

Lives on the Other Side

2025 | Various Locations in Mexico

Photography

- Independently conducted a multi-city documentary project across Mexico, working on location for an extended period. Traveled through Mexico City, Guanajuato, Guadalajara, León, and Tijuana, building a comprehensive visual study of everyday life in regions often defined by migration, labor, and border proximity.
- Photographed and produced a cohesive series using structured color, natural light, and observational framing. The project explores themes of displacement, economic precarity, childhood resilience, and the unspoken tension between aspiration and confinement.
- Ongoing development toward exhibition and publication

Press and Features

BROADWAY WORLD

The Geography of the Invisible: Yizhen Zhang and the Art of Witnessing | Jan 2026

USA TODAY

IPA 2025 Highlights: Photography as a Bridge Between Cultures and Generations | Sept 2025

FASHION WEEK DAILY

Capturing Real Lives Through Street Fashion An Interview with Yizhen Zhang | Mar 2025

MSN

The Documentary Win or Lose Debuts as a Bronze Winner at the Budapest International Foto Awards | Feb 2025

VOGUE CHINA

From Bill Cunningham to Contemporary Stories on the Streets of New York | Feb 2025

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The Debut of the Documentary Win or Lose: An Award-Winning Exploration of Identity and Resilience | Feb 2025

HARPER'S BAZAAR

Yizhen Zhang: Seeing Truth Through the Lens | Jan 2025

ProgresiveFestival Magazine

Win or Lose by Yizhen Zhang | June 2024

Technical Skills

Photography: Still Shooting, Studio/Environmental Lighting, Photo Editing (Adobe PS/LR/BR)

Film Production: Motion Shooting, Editing (Adobe PR/AU, DaVinci Resolve)

Multimedia Design: Book Design and Layout (InDesign)

Website: Web Design (Webflow, Figma)