



Hi, this is Zhiqi Li.

In this portfolio I would like to share with you the portraits I took. As mentioned in my personal statement, photography is an important way for me to record the meaningful moments in my life and unearth diverse beauty, and a vehicle through which my deep perception of the world unfolds. Please enjoy my portfolio.



- ◆ This group of portraits is a farewell gift to my classmate. She is a key badminton player in my school and will soon leave us for athlete training. I especially captured her vibrant energy and uplifting spirit from her petite body.





- ◆ The girl in this group of portraits wished her image to be gentler. I especially chose a piece of green and white *Hanfu* (the traditional dress of the Han Chinese people), a bamboo fan, and a silk umbrella for her, creating a gentle image. We took this portrait in Canton Orchid Garden. In traditional Chinese wisdom, orchids represent cleanliness and elegance, so this Orchid Garden fits our theme perfectly. After posting this group of portraits on social media, I received many comments about how beautiful *Hanfu* is. I was honored to be able to spread Hanfu and traditional Chinese culture to more people.





- ◆ The girl is a model accustomed to sweet-style portraits. I wanted her to explore various styles. As a result, I helped her shoot a set of photos that imitated Hong Kong stars in the 90s, showing her mature charm. This particular portrait unlocked her opportunities to model in different styles.





- ◆ In this group of portraits, I especially used light to create chiaroscuro and a faint halo. This technique makes photos more attractive.

- ◆ The military conflict between Russia and Ukraine brought the war so close to me that as a photographer, I feel obliged to record my thoughts on war with my camera. With my friend acting as a photographic subject, my specially designed props, dress, and makeup, I made this anti-war themed portrait photography to express my thinking on war.
- ◆ Shortly after posting these photos on social media, I received many anti-war comments from my peers. Taking such comments as the highest compliment of my creativity, I will dedicate myself to inspiring people with my camera.



- ◆ **Kill:** In this picture, my photographic subject, a young girl dressed in black, points the gun (props) at a mirror. The mirror reflects her face, making the scene like she is pointing the gun at herself. Under this intentional composition, I want to tell the public that the advocates of war will eventually be devoured by the war.

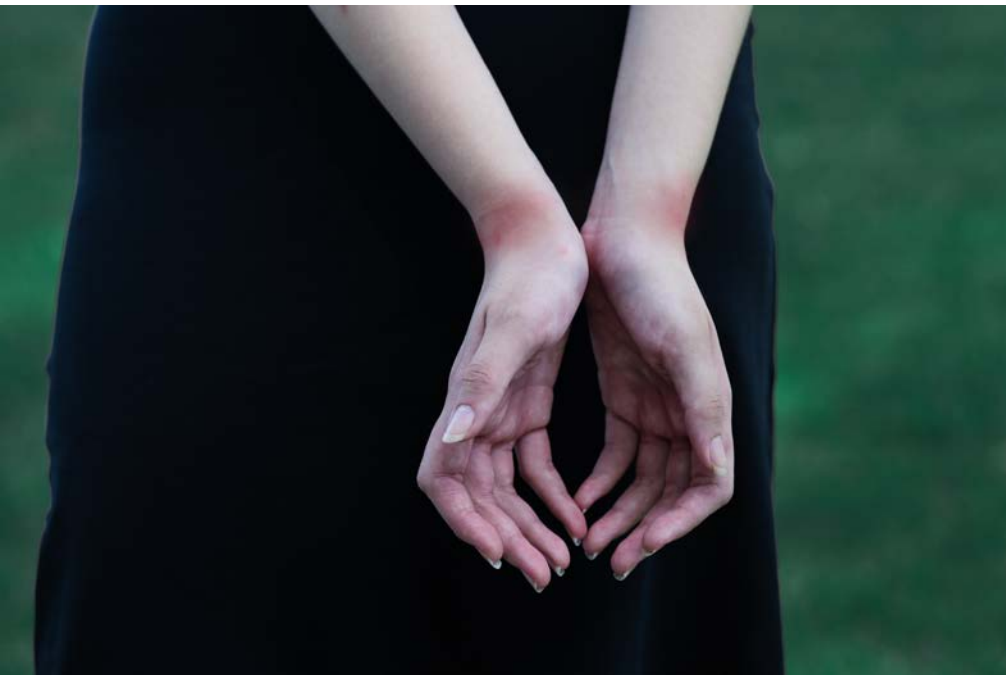


- ◆ **Hypocrisy & Disguise:** With a puff on her hands and a rose on the gun muzzle, my model symbolizes the politician who tries to beautify the war. In this image, I satirize the politicians who occupy the media platforms to promote the legitimacy of war. Their motive for brainwashing propaganda is not for peace but personal gain.





- ◆ **Blindness:** My model was blindfolded with lace, utterly unaware of the imminent danger-she was pointed at a gun. Now the subject symbolizes the general public who blindly believes in the media narrative manipulated by politicians. Losing critical thinking, they will be the next victims of the war.



◆ **Aftermath:** In this close-up, I focused on the lace marks on the girl's hands. Her hands were tied with lace before, and the marks are still visible even if she has broken free. I try to express in this shot that the war's aftermath would remain like the lace marks on hands. After the war, there will be countless ruins waiting to be rebuilt. Will the advocates of war help restore the war land? I doubt that.



◆ The portfolio comes to an end here, but my story with camera will continue...