

People to People: Men-dong Daily

Photographs from Nanjing, China by Zhengwen Xiong

“The photograph isn’t what was photographed, it’s something else. It’s about transformation” Garry Winogrand

Men-dong is located inside Nanjing, China. One of China's oldest cities, serving as the capital to various Chinese dynasties, kingdoms and republican governments from the 3rd century to 1949. Zhengwen Xiong began documenting Men-dong in 2005. He was drawn to the historic streets and the kinship between the residents. In this unique area of town, along the narrow thoroughfares, he recorded the peoples’ daily activities.

Photographs capturing children and old alike in the alleys living casual interactions and play. The streets, akin to their yard, brimming with activities ranging from selling papers and food to chores, conversations, and games—kids in nikes and camo. The images show the humor and grace of those who dwell in Xiong's photographs of Men-dong. Portrait styled shots are mixed in with candid ones, giving an intimate look at the people. You see how the weather moves through the streets and against the worn structures, simple needs, and regular occurrences.

China's development is changing the city with each passing day. Histories and heritages seem to disappear easily. As long as the small streets and alleys are not removed from Men-dong, people here do not migrate to other places. Zhengwen Xiong will continue to document these ordinary people's life scenes.

Zhengwen Xiong born in 1966. He graduated from Nanjing Normal University, Department of Fine Arts. A journalist instructor, freelance photographer and CEO of Jin Xing Media Company.

**Look for programing and educational material to be released on the exhibition
January/February 2021**

People to People is a digital show, you can access it here, www.mspar.org/ptp

For more information call 615-963-5921 or email cjohn173@tnstate.edu

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3500 John A. Merritt Blvd, Nashville TN 37208
Hiram Van Gordon Gallery Elliott Hall
HOURS M-TH 10-4PM Event 4-6PM
Campus presently closed to Public

