

The Evolution and Impact of Chinese Photographic Works in the World Press Photo Competition

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Abstract

The World Press Photography Competition is the most representative and authoritative news photography competition, attracting thousands of photographers to participate every year. Since China participated in the 31st Competition for the first time in 1988, its works have gradually gained attention and recognition around the world. So far, more than 50 groups of works have won awards. Based on the award distribution and theme of the competition, we can comprehensively and systematically study the winning works, especially the winning works of Chinese photographers, which can have a clearer understanding of the development and change trend of Chinese news photography from a worldwide perspective. As the most famous photography competition in the world, the community pays more and more attention to the competition. The study of Chinese works in the World Press Photo Competition not only provides us with the latest criteria for judging news photography works, but also provides the creative direction for photography creators. At the same time, with the emergence of new ideas of news photography creation in the Internet era, it is different from the traditional news photography in the traditional sense. In the final analysis, due to the updated iteration of ideas and technologies, the communication media has become rich and challenging.

Keywords: The World Press Photo Competition; Press Photography; China Photography

Introduction

With the development of technology, photography has changed from early film to today's digital technology, and media forms have gradually evolved from traditional paper media to more extensive Internet communication. The new communication environment provides a broad space for the development of photography art. So it needs today's photography art constantly sum up experience, deepen the cognitive, at the same time under the background of the World Press Photo competition, study how Chinese news photography is developing and change step by step, make the domestic art level to the world, let more audience to recognition, is also the focus of this paper. At the beginning of the World Press Photo Competition, most of the winners were Western photographers. As more and more photographers from developing countries participated in the competition, many of their excellent works were gradually recognized in the competition, while Chinese photographers gradually realized the richness and leapfrog in the step by step development. From 35 years ago for the first time, let Chinese photography appeared in the worldwide stage to now has more than 50 groups of awards, can say whether in the creation, or creative content on the different changes and development, and the development of work is not only limited to the change of the picture itself, more important is the map to China's own photography art and the development of Chinese social landscape and evolution.

Research Objective

Explore the changing trend of Chinese photography works in the World Press Photo competition, and provide a methodology for today's photography creation.

Literature Reviews

With the increase of entries every year and the development of society, especially the Internet is gradually more and more recognized and used by the society, the literature on image art in the Internet age is increasing. At the same time, the World Press Photo Competition still has great popularity in today's Chinese photography academic circle. Studying its development and change is conducive to guiding people to better image creation, and at the same time making Chinese photography works to the international stage. Therefore, the literature review of this paper mainly focuses on the Chinese works of the World Photography Competition and the photography creation in the current Internet era.

1. The development of photography and news photography

The word news in China can be traced back to 1923 modern famous newspaper Shao Pioping wrote "practical application news" news media basic requirements of news for "standard", namely the news media according to the principle of all news from news reports, any news activities to news itself as the starting point, focus, adhering to the news responsible attitude, in accordance with the characteristics and rules of news research work. As the recorder of news and the creator of news images, the quality and skills of news photographers play a vital role in the dissemination of news (Xu Zhongmin, 1995).

Media convergence seems to put forward higher requirements for news photography creators. It is easy for versatile creators to say, but it poses great challenges to news photographers who have adapted to the traditional media report and way of thinking. For example, the development of digital technology saves the post-production and transmission of news photography a lot of time and energy than before, which provides time for photographers to learn new technologies and new thinking. (Zhou Chunhong, 2012). Related western countries also have more in-depth research on the image art in the Internet era, Tan Ngian Chye Published "A picture speaks a thousand words: the use of digital photography and the Internet as a cost-effective tool in monitoring free flaps, The article mainly focuses on the use of the Internet for photography for a detailed analysis, Focus on the transmission efficiency of the Internet and the ratio of economic output.

2. Research on the literature related to the World Press Photography Competition

By reviewing the relevant literature, the typical characteristics and artistic tendencies of the winning works of the World Press Photo Competition are summarized. For example, Chen Wei once concluded in the article "Analysis of the Characteristics of the winning photos of the World Press Photo Competition" that the winning works of the World Press Photo Competition have five characteristics: important events, decisive moments, exquisite technology, difficult to obtain pictures, and extensive social influence. Wang Huaichun's research "Interpretation of the" Aesthetic "tendency of winning works in the World Press Photo Competition in recent years" believes that the winning works focus on human suffering, which is the expression of western aesthetic tradition in the field of news photography. In his opinion, aestheticism is not a subjective assumption of photographers, it is a portrayal of true suffering and the true embodiment of human nature in the western tragic culture. Scholars in the World Press Photo contest like black lens, points out: " the World Press Photo contest winning works is a large

part of war, disaster subject, such has an important position in photography photos using direct narrative photography to performance, often let the author bear heavy psychological burden, leave readers negative impression. The reason is mainly related to the news value orientation of the West.”

In China photographer works after the World Press Photo contest, many scholars began to study the cause of Chinese photographers started to international, for example, in the World Press Photo competition and China pointed out: " with China's reform and opening up, comprehensive strength, Chinese mass media in the international voice enhanced, orthodox propaganda cause under the context of national support, news photography practitioners vision also expand in the progress of The Times."The collection of relevant literature can prove that China is increasing its participation in the World Press Photo Contest, and is also getting familiar with the changing World News Contest.

So you can see, with the development of technology, the face of photography is constantly change and innovation, through the study of the history of photography, photography from 1839, as a kind of social tools, after the birth of the news photography in the 19th century let people pay attention to the important record of photography, to later discuss whether it exists as an independent art category, to now on the high-speed train of digital technology development, as the rise of digital technology, change in the field of photography is imperative. In this context, the following table is obtained through the author's literature summary and extraction, so it is more necessary to face up to the development of photography and the historical origin of the development of news photography, analyze its rationality, and discuss how photography continues to develop and innovate in the new era background.

Age	In the early 19th century	In the late 19th century	In the early 20th century	In the late 20th century
Background	Be born	Rise	Crisis	Transform
Keyword	Reappear	Record	Express	Medium

Figure 1: The appearance of photography evolves

Source: Author

We can just combine the changes and development of photography art in different times, so that the creation can constantly meet the needs of the current social development. As mentioned above, the intuition of today's digital image art makes us not limited to the research in the form of academic papers, but also in a combination of atlas, videos and other ways. As for the change of video art with the development of The Times, we constantly seek for new theoretical points. Through consulting many literature materials, it also provides a reliable theoretical basis for the research of this paper, and summarize and explore how the participants of Chinese photography tell Chinese stories well in different times. However, the Chinese entries are rarely combed and analyzed in the literature, so this is also the research innovation of this paper.

Research Methodology

This study conducts qualitative research with literature research as the main research tool. Through descriptive statistics and hierarchical multivariate analysis content. The research body is mainly divided into the following parts. First, to consult the representative works of Chinese news photography in recent years, to conduct a comprehensive review, and second, to read the relevant publications. Through qualitative analysis, the following three ways:

1. Descriptive analysis: explain the creation background and theme content of representative works. Through collecting and consulting relevant materials, the changes and influence of China's works in the World Press Photo Competition in recent years.
2. Comparative analysis: According to the changes and development of Chinese news photography, the expression elements of the representative works are compared and analyzed.
3. Induction and analysis: Through consulting relevant books, materials and literature publications, understand the current news thematic photography works, analyze and summarize the creation methods suitable for the development of today's photography.

Research Results

1. The contemporary changes of the theme content

Since 1988, Yang Shaoming has won the third prize in the Hessay Prize for "Deng Xiaoping retired." After eight years, Li Nan's "Liaocheng Children's Acrobatic School" won the gold medal in art. Since then, more and more Chinese photographers have participated in the tournament and achieved good results.



Figure 2: The retired Deng Xiaoping **Figure 3: Liaocheng Children's acrobatic**
Source: Internet **Source: Internet**

If the early Chinese politician Deng Xiaoping taken by Yang Shaoming was a curiosity of the West about the daily life of Chinese leaders, then Li Nan's work is a defamiliarization experience to the overseas judges. "Top bowl" acrobatics is a common type of acrobatics, and Chinese audiences can often see such performances in various galeas. The acrobatic training pictures of the photos, the blue painted wall skirt, the bright pole, and the mottled white walls, the common emotions of the Chinese audience are strange to the foreign judges, and it is precisely this strangeness that the foreign judges pay attention to it. It can be said that the early entries were mainly won by virtue of the western world's strangeness and curiosity about China. The change of strangeness gradually evolves with the different development of The Times, among which the most obvious is the sports photography works in China participating in the World Press Photo Competition. Since the end of the 20th century, China put forward the slogan of sports power, and Chinese sports have gradually appeared on the world stage, which has successfully attracted the western attention of Chinese sports. More and more Chinese

photographers began to shoot sports. Since Jia Guorong won the bronze medal in sports in 2002, several photographers have won awards for shooting Chinese sports works.

Statistical table of award-winning sports works			
Time	Author	The name of the work	Classification
2002	Guorong Jia	China won the gymnastics championship	Single bronze prize in sports category
2005	Yan Qiu	Li Xiaoshuang Gymnastics School	Third prize of sports special topic group photo
2008	Maohua Fei	2007 Movement moment	Second prize of sports action category
2009	Qing Zhao	The Olympics on Beijing TV	First prize of sports feature category group photo
2009	Xiaoling Wu	Judo — Blood-dyed arena	First prize in sports category
2013	Zheng Wei	Synchronized Swimming	Third prize in the sports action category
2013	Yongzhi Chu	Warm up	Second prize in sports action category
2014	Guorong Jia	The battle on the bar	First prize of sports action group photo
2014	Kunrong Chen	Work out	Second prize of sports special-up group photo
2015	Tailiang Bao	The World Cup — is one step away	First prize in sports category

Figure 4: Statistical table of award-winning sports works

Source: Author

According to the statistical tables and contents, sports works have become one of the key directions for Chinese photographers to participate in the World Press Photo Competition. Among the more than 50 groups of winning works so far, sports account for nearly 20%. From the sports power slogan, to the 2008 Olympic Games first held in China, after nearly a decade, Chinese sports is not just a sport so simple, from the early focus on Chinese sports training daily, based on 2005 Qiu Yan works with some irony Chinese sports development behind the degree of training, to 2009 Zhao Qing works reflects the national Olympic spectacle of a performance, to 2014, the bar battle. Obviously from the picture content from irony to performance to praise the change trend of Chinese athletes, is also simply a single pole, the difference is the early era is childlike by a few boys, hard training is not tally with their body shape, and ten years after the winning works, in the background of the same horizontal bar, is the performance of the Chinese athletes under the moment. In different times, the judges can clearly feel the difference of the focus and attention of Chinese works. At the same time, the reasons for the author's creation changes and the award of his works have jumped out of the category of sports themselves. With the development of The Times, the western society can better understand China with the help of sports, and behind the award of his works is an obvious embodiment of The Times.



Figure 5: Li Xiaosh Gymnastics School **Figure 6: The battle on the war**
Source: Internet



2. Subjective changes in the photographer's creation

As is known to all, news photography has an inherent objective record. As early as 2013, a scholar Wu Wenyi pointed out that news photography has the most prominent connection with aesthetics in the process of communication. The so-called aesthetic correlation depends on the selection of the photographer in the creation, which is a highly subjective process. The creation of news photography comes from the subjective choice of the theme and the subjective choice of the shooting point. If the choice of the shooting point is limited by the environmental conditions of the shooting site, then the choice of the shooting theme is a strong embodiment of the creator's subjective. From the early winning entries, Most of the work is based on an objective record of the photographer at the news scene, It's more about the reproduction and restoration of an event, Only through their own unique perspective using the image to tell the audience about a special event in a special scene, But according to the study, Since the endangered Plants in Wanzhou Nature Reserve in 2008, More and more photographers in China choose to stop simply recording it objectively, Instead, try to use poses or director-like scenes, Still rely on the creation of news photography, Like the audience to tell their own subjective thoughts. In 2009, Fu Yongjun's "A Tree by the West Lake" won the second prize in the nature category, and a judge gave the photos such comments as "the unity of man and nature". "And the unity of nature and man, is the realm of Chinese traditional culture, Fu Yongjun is relying on their own subjective ideas, also taken from the existing objective world, but the difference is, in his photography, has jumped out of the pure record of emergency events or special events, work is in its nearly one thousand photos selected nine, the same location environment is the picture of people, things, and that like the observer bloom of peach trees.



Figure 7: A tree by the West Lake, Fu Yongjun
Source: Internet

Like yong-jun fu, after the years more and more Chinese photographers to image creation with strong subjective idea, in the same year Li Jiejun war photography icon series and the second year of the area ZhiHang works "push-ups" are out of the emergency or news scene records, turn to posing or director photography, for their own subjective thoughts.



Figure 8: Push-ups

Source: Internet

In the push-ups series, the author use take naked do push-ups, with obvious symbol appears in each work, the creation of obvious behavior art can not help but feel whether this is news photography, but explore the work is not difficult to find that the photo environment or space, actually is the location of the major news events. But all news is timeliness, and timeliness is a double-edged sword, both timely and easy to outdated. Subject to various factors, major public events or social contradictions with complex social problems are often replaced by new events and forgotten, intentionally or unintentionally, without time to identify and solve them. Therefore, Ozhihang adopts the naked way, showing itself as an observer in the picture, naked and naked observing the face of the society. Although such a practice has broken the timeliness of news photography, it has extended the timeliness of news photography to another extent, and triggered and extended people's attention, questioning and reflection on major public events. In today's digital age, although everyone can become a professional operator of the camera or manipulate the camera in a very simple way, due to the breakthrough of the shackles of equipment, when the tools become simple, the things people make become the problem we need to think about. The creation of photography can be carried out with a strong subjective intention.

3. Changes in the richness of technology applications

As a key step of creation, the mastery of photography technology is not only a necessary skill for every photographer, but sometimes also provides new ideas and new methods for creation along with the development of technology. Analysis from the technical perspective of winning works, because belongs to the category of news photography, so "decisive moment" theory is throughout the application of all works, that is, basically used in the creation of the camera high speed shutter, this is conducive to capture news photography moment, but in 2009, the digital age rich popularity, thanks to the digital camera can bring faster shutter speed, Wu Xiaoling judo —— blood won the sports project class first prize.



Figure 9: Judo—Blood dyed match **Figure 10: Milk crown**
Source: Internet **Source: Internet**

Know the history of photography, the winning works of blood and classic photography milk crown, different is the shooting environment, early to shoot the moment of milk, Harold iger (Harold Edgerton) set up multiple flash to ensure enough brightness, so that the camera can get high shutter speed. However, with the improvement of science and technology, the use of high-speed shutter is no longer so complicated, which also makes creators easily use photography technology in line with today's development level to create.

In the 58th World News Photography Competition, the Chinese photographer Lu Guang can clearly see the different contents of the application of different landscape technologies. By selecting some representative works, do the analysis results in the following table:

Works	Shotsize	Content	Affect
	Medium Close-up	The government has placed more than 120 carved sheep on the Horqin grassland, but pollution from the coal mines has degraded the grassland	Through close-up views, the sculpture of the foreground produces irony with the contamination of the background.
	Full Shot	Rivers and ponds in Guiyu town of Guangdong province are severely polluted	Highlights the environmental pollution of human small and life is surrounded by pollution.
	Close-up	shepherds on the banks of the Yellow River could not bear the pungent smell of chemical sewage	The close-up of the wide-angle lens exaggerates the characters under the pollution

	<p>Wide Shot</p>	<p>In banded mining areas in Hebei province, coal dust and sand blow into the air, causing smog and pollution</p>	<p>The area of the polluted mining area is huge, and the prospect is particularly small</p>
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Figure11: Special photography "China's Environmental pollution" part of the work analysis list

Source: Author

Through the analysis of Lu Guang's works, we can see that under different scenes, the role presented through the picture language has already gone beyond the image itself. Environmental pollution is a thorny problem facing the development of social and economic production, in order to show this social situation. At the same time, in order to show this problem, through the analysis, the author often uses 17-40mm wide-angle lens and 70-200mm telephoto lens, they can bring strong image near, large, far small and compressed space image distortion, and this distortion can bring strong visual impact. With the development and continuous application of technology, the creators can better express the theme. It can be said that the creation of art cannot be separated from the application and development of technology, and the application of technology provides a better service for the creation of art.

Discussion & Conclusion

Through the analysis of the content and background of the works, it tries to show the changes and development of the winning works of China in the World Press Photo Competition. Indeed, as a world photography competition dominated by the Western world, no matter the theme, content or technology, the works contain both the label of "China" and the visual cognition of "China" around the world. The early image of China was more based on a sense of strangeness and curiosity than on our real care for Chinese society. And with China's international status, the World Press Photo contest of China winning works gradually have their own context, at the same time with the real image of the Chinese image reshape, it is for today's image creators, thinking, dare to practice, insist on all technology, according to a scientific subjective way, which can better world news photography contest platform show the Chinese story, to the heart of the view with image, to create rich content at the same time weight of image works.

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