

2008-2018

Wenchuan Earthquake

邱始著

中国摄影出版社 China Photographic Publishing House

## 汶川地震

邱焰 著



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## CATALOGUE

# Diary Excerpt: Vanished Sceneries 58 Diary Excerpt: The Back of an Old Lady on Ruins 60 Diary Excerpt: Transfer of Severely Injured 62 Diary Excerpt: Broken Mural 64

Diary Excerpt: Lost Children in Parents' Hearts 6

#### TO LIVE 68

FOREWORD

#### REBIRTH 114

Cao Liangying/Luo Yuanhang 118
Liu Shijie 124
Chen Zhenlin 130
Gong Yue 136
Jiang Liu 142
Li Degiang 148

Liang Kexin 154
Liu Yinxu 160

Gan Yu 166

Li Pengcheng 172

#### POSTSCRIPT 180

## 目 录

序 4

伤逝 9

日记节选: 消逝的风景线 59

日记节选:废墟上的背影 61

日记节选: 重伤员外运 63

日记节选:破损的壁画 65

日记节选: 逝去的孩子埋在父母心里 67

活着 69

重生 115

曹良英 \ 罗远航 118

刘世杰 124

陈真林 130

龚 悦 136

姜 刘 142

李德强 148

梁珂馨 154

刘银旭 160

甘雨 166

李鹏成 172

后记 178

简介 183

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Li Pengcheng 172

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日记节选: 重伤员外运 63

日记节选:破损的壁画 65

日记节选: 逝去的孩子埋在父母心里 67

活着 69

重生 115

曹良英 \ 罗远航 118

刘世杰 124

陈真林 130

龚 悦 136

姜 刘 142

李德强 148

梁珂馨 154

刘银旭 160

甘雨 166

李鹏成 172

后记 178

简介 183

#### 影像将比我们活的更长久

陈小波

我至今难忘 2008 年夏季那几个夜晚,我奉命为中国摄影家协会主编《见证汶川》画册。当几乎所有去汶川的摄影者的影像涌到我面前时,我几乎要窒息。

我第一次如此大规模地看灾难照片,我无法掩盖我的恐惧和悲伤。很多照片几乎是在地震刚发生几小时内拍摄的,我聆听着生命颤动的声音,甚至感受死亡全过程。2008 年夏天,我的孩子不到四岁。编辑 画册的过程中,我想的最多的就是:失去孩子的父母怎么活下去?

但同时我在庆幸: 1976 年唐山地震 , 进到灾区的摄影者有限 , 对记录灾难的认识有限 , 中国摄影几乎没有留下多少有价值的记录 ; 而 2008 年汶川地震 , 中国摄影者的良知与记录精神全面唤醒 , 数以干计的摄影者涌向灾区。几百年后 , 那时的人会通过这些艰苦卓绝的记录了解那场世纪灾难。

2008年5月,湖北摄影家邱焰也在这支记录的队伍里。他的影像强烈地叙述着严酷的现实,有的画面至今仍不忍目睹。

伤痛不可能走远。"更有尊严地活着",成了十年甚至百年的主题词。2009 年、2014 年、2017 年、 2018 年,邱焰几进汶川,走近地震中曾经受伤的人,和他们交谈,为他们拍摄。

邱焰一如既往的细腻、耐心、慈悲,试图理解每个人的地震心理阴影。"逝去的孩子埋在父母心里""替死去的亲人好好活着""时光是最好的医者""害怕再次逝去亲人""想和平常人一样活着"……邱焰把幸存者对各自命运的叙述留下来,真实、忧愁、悲伤难耐。叙述中,这个非常事件,把摄影者同他人命运关联起来。

邱焰清楚自己既非诗人也非史家,他的影像与文字记录充其量只有微不足道的力量。但每个时代每个 社会的人,都有回忆生命中重要事件的需要。邱焰愿付出自己的爱和理解,从自身生命经验出发,去陈述 他所看到的汶川十年,留下一些证据,让将来的人有据可查。

在中国,记录摄影和文献摄影的必要性和重要性,超过世界上任何一个国家。太多不可靠的记忆与不充分的材料相遇,产生了不可信的历史。所以中国的记录摄影在普及常识、揭示真相、抵抗遗忘、归纳和解析时代现象等诸多方面,具有强大的优势。没有记录摄影,我们的国家将变成一个没有记忆的国家。

优秀的记录摄影一定会在历史中有其位置。历史会站在那些用深情记录、贡献杰出影像的摄影人一边。 在那里,影像将比我们活的更长久。

认识邱焰二十余年,我一直对他怀有敬重。他对自己从事的职业怀有巨大热忱,他一直独立行走,他试图以独有的微妙的方式,表达爱的主题、历史的主题。邱焰也曾经经历挫折。挫折会让有些人的职业生

涯骤停,而邱焰没有。他在用更深的反省和更独立的行走,完成自我教育,并保有尊严。

写下这些文字,正值清明节。

北京的今天,冷得有点不可思议。

看邱焰的照片, 比寒冷更加寒冷。

好在影像背后,我感受到摄影者炙热的心肠。

2018 年清明节

### **PREFACE**

#### Images Have a Life of Their Own

By Chen Xiaobo

It has been an unforgettable journey since those nights in the summer of 2008 when I was appointed as chief editor to compile an album of photographs *Witnessing Wenchuan* for the China Photographers Association. Confronted with the flood of photos taken by photographers who went to Wenchuan, I felt suffocated.

It was the first time in my life that I had seen disaster photos in such large numbers. I couldn't pretend not feeling horrified at the heart rending scenes before me. Many photos were taken within hours after the earthquake. Looking at them, I was listening to the sound of the fragility of life, and witnessing the process of death. My child was not yet four years old in that summer. During the compiling process, one question that came to my mind most frequently was: "How do the parents who lost their children continue to live?" As I continued to work, I considered the differences between this disaster and the one back in 1976 which hit Tangshan, Hebei Province. Back then, there were very limited numbers of photographers entering the destroyed area. Due to the lack of knowledge in recording disasters, not much in the way of meaningful records about the earthquake have been saved in the history of Chinese photography. When the Wenchuan earthquake occurred in 2008, Chinese photographers had a new awareness, a conscientious spirit to record the facts, as thousands of them rushed to the devastated area. A hundred years on, people will still be able to grasp the impact of this catastrophe of the 21st century through all the recorded documentation.

In May 2008, Qiu Yan, a photographer from Hubei, was one of the recorders. His images, some of which I still don't dare to see, strongly depict the severe and cruel truth.

The pain will never truly vanish. How to live with respect has become the theme of the ten years that have passed. In 2009, 2014, 2017, and in 2018, Qiu Yan has periodically visited Wenchuan, contacted the earthquake victims, talked with them, and taken photos for them.

Qiu Yan is a sensitive, patient and kind man who tries to understand the mental suffering that every earthquake victim has experienced. "Lost children, deep in parents' hearts," "Live well for lost relatives," "Time is the best medicine," "Afraid of losing relatives again," and "Wishing to live as an ordinary person"... Qiu Yan has kept the statements that the survivors made for their fate individually. They are very real, distressed, and sorrowful. Earthquake, a rare occurrence, is the bond that connects the photographer and other people's fates.

Qiu Yan is clearly aware that he is not a poet or historian, and his images and words only carry limited power, but there is a need for everyone in every level of society to recall and record the important events in life. Qiu Yan would like to devote his love and understanding, with his life experience, to describe what he has seen in the past ten years in Wenchuan, as a way to save his records for people to reflect upon in the future.

In China, there is more necessity for documentary photography than any other country in

the world. When too many unreliable memories encounter insufficient materials, the outcome is a history which is not believable. Therefore in China, this style of photography has an advantage to make information more widespread, revealing the truth, struggling against lapses of memory, and summarizing and analyzing social phenomena. Without documentary photography, China will become a country without memory.

Throughout recorded history, a position will always remain for skilful photographic documentation. History itself will stand on the side of the photographers who contribute their passion and heart to record and leave their mark. These images will live longer than human beings.

I have known Qiu Yan for over twenty years, and give my sincere respect to him. He is always passionate about his occupation. He maintains independence, and struggles in his own subtle way to describe themes associated with love and history. Of course, Qiu Yan suffers from frustration sometimes, some would be shattered by what he has seen, and walk away from their vocation, but Qiu Yan has a gentleness and inner strength which keeps him striving forward. He strives for excellence, and deeper understanding, whilst maintaining the utmost respect for his subjects, at the same time gaining the greatest respect from his colleagues and fellow photographers.

As I write these words, I note that it is the time of our Ching Ming Festival.

Today Beijing's weather is absolutely freezing.

Qiu Yan's photos have brought more cold to my heart than the cold weather, however, behind the photos I have felt the warmth of this quietly determined, talented photographer.

Ching Ming Festival, 2018



### **SORROW**

14:28 P.M., May 12,2008, Wenchuan, China, 8-magnitude earthquake. Time stops at this moment.

This is the most devastating earthquake since 1949, and also the deadliest earthquake to hit China since the Tangshan earthquake.

Severely affected areas exceeded 100,000 square kilometers, including 10 hardest-hit counties (cities), 41 gravely damaged, and 186 modestly affected.

A total of 69,227 people lost their lives in the quake, and 17,923 were listed as missing.

May 12 has been designated as the National Disaster Prevention and Reduction Day since 2009.

## 伤逝

公元 2008 年 5 月 12 日 14 时 28 分, 中国汶川,8.0 级大地震。 时间静止在这一刻。

这是新中国成立以来破坏力最大的地震, 也是唐山大地震后伤亡最严重的一次地震。

地震严重破坏地区超过 10 万平方干米, 其中,极重灾区共 10 个县(市), 较重灾区共 41 个县(市),一般灾区共 186 个县(市)。 地震中死亡人数达 69227 人,失踪人数达 17923 人。

2009年起,每年5月12日被确立为全国"防灾减灾日"。







2008 年 5 月 25 日,四川省都江堰市向峨乡,工人在地震废墟上维修电线。离这里不远的一所中学,大约 400 名学生遇难。

A worker fixes electricity lines around the debris of destroyed home in Xiange Town on May 25, 2008, in the outskirts of Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province. Not far away from there, nearly 400 students at a high school were dead in the earthquake.



2008年5月25日,四川省都江堰市向峨乡,被地震毁坏的镇子。

A town area destroyed by earthquake is seen at Xiange Town on May 25, 2008, in the outskirts of Dujiangyan, Sichuan Province.