

Film 2025

LCB Depot's exhibition & events programme highlights work from different creative practices every month.

This month the focus is on photography and film with work from established professionals and emerging creatives. Exhibitions and events run from **3rd March - 17th April 2025** at LCB Depot and from April 11th at Phoenix

Find out more [@lcbdepot](https://www.instagram.com/lcbdepot) or at lcbdepot.co.uk/event/film2025



Bargaining in the Dust

Wenqian Liu

“Bargaining in the Dust” is a photo series by Wenqian Liu that takes you right into a bustling livestock market in Northwest China. While in many other parts of China—and the world—people barely use cash anymore and pay for everything with a quick scan of their phone, here it's still piles of cash and a simple handshake that seal deals worth thousands of RMB.

In these images, farmers wrestle with stubborn cattle amid swirling dust, donkey carts are parked next to modern trucks, and traders huddle over thick stacks of banknotes. For visitors used to digital payments and formal

contracts, it's almost hard to imagine how this age-old system still works—and more importantly, how it remains sustainable. Yet, this market carries on, fueled by a sense of trust, tradition, and face-to-face negotiation that technology hasn't replaced.

By capturing this raw, hands-on approach to commerce, “Bargaining in the Dust” highlights the clash between digital progress and time-honored practices. It makes us wonder: in a rapidly modernizing society, is there still room for communities to preserve their unique ways of doing business? Or could this simpler, cash-based model offer clues to resilience and human connection in an ever more impersonal world?

Artist Bio

Wenqian Liu was born in Xi'an, China—renowned for its Terracotta Warriors, often called the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” Inspired from a young age by her father's passion for photography. Studied under Magnum photographer Emin Özmen. Currently studies in Arts Management degree at De Montfort University (DMU), exploring new dimensions in documentary storytelling.

Documentary Focus: Develops and captures real-life moments through a documentary lens.

Exhibitions:

798 Ying Gallery “Winter Photography Exhibition” in Beijing

i ma Gallery “Distant Cold Surge: Homecoming and Drifting” in Shanghai

Shortlisted by the New York Photo Fair

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