

bio

/chrystal ding/

Born in Harbin, north-eastern China, I have been a practising photographer in China, Mongolia, Australia, and most recently London for the last 8 years. In 2013 I was shortlisted for the IdeasTap 16-25 Photographic Award with Magnum Photos for a documentary photography project about mining in Mongolia. Earlier this year I was shortlisted for the ESPY Photo Award Book Prize for my hybrid book *12 Stanley Street*. *12 Stanley Street* is a collection of real-life stories about a house in Melbourne in 2012 and uses photographs, diaries, and short story style prose to reflect on the fragmented nature of youth, memory, and nostalgia. My portrait work has been exhibited at a 2012 gala event at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge as part of 'Cambridge Faces', a celebration of English heritage. I am currently completing an MA in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at London College of Communication under the tutelage of Edmund Clark, Paul Lowe, and Max Houghton and am expecting to graduate at the end of this year.

My work is about joining dots. Putting things together that have a natural coherence, but have perhaps not been conceived of or experienced in the same space. My background is itself a confluence of things: literature (I studied my BA in English at Cambridge University), scientific collaborations (I worked with a Nottingham university medical student on a project called [Imaging Mental Illness](#) earlier this year and am currently collaborating with [Dr. Anna Middleton, Head of Society and Ethics Research](#) at the Wellcome Genome Campus on my long-term project *Genetopia*), and innovation (I previously worked as Strategic Innovation Director in a media agency.)

It is in bringing together diverse sources of knowledge, people, and stories, that I find the greatest clarity of expression, and photography is the medium in which I engage with these sources. Photography allows me to be one person interacting with vastness – it is my way into complexity, a tool for making sense of the human implications of technological and scientific advancements, and communicating these back to people like myself who would not otherwise be able to engage with them.