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XIAOXIAO XU





## Xiaoxiao Xu



### *China*

Immigrating from China to the Netherlands at a young age, Xiaoxiao Xu is a photographer who's particularly interested in the surreality of reality.

#### **Why did you decide to take pictures of a specific childhood dream: to fly?**

First of all, I think wanting to fly is a common human desire. I always have these dreams of me flying in the sky. I read an article in the Dutch newspaper *Volkscrant* named *Air Castles* in April 2014, (the article explains how much money some Chinese people spent to build their own aircraft). I was immediately fascinated by the magical and fairy tale qualities of the subject. They have very few resources and hardly any knowledge about the technology behind building aircrafts. But they do carry endless creativity and boundless persistency, often allowing them to achieve their wildest fantasies. I was fascinated by the rich imagination of these people and their romantic pursuit in contrast to their poor existence.

#### **What did you learn while producing this series?**

I think we can learn from aeronautical perseverance. Despite all the failures, they continue and manage to enjoy it and make the most of it.

#### **You photographed the dream of these people, but what's your?**

My dream is very simple, I would like to be able to do what I want to do. For now it's being able to go further with photography, getting better at what I do and surpassing myself. Actually I can identify very much with the aeronauts. They do not receive much support from their family and surroundings; in the worst case, people see them as aero-lunatics, just because they are pursuing something which is not mainstream. It's the same with me being a photographer, it's not the most obvious choice for me. Like the aeronauts, I chose something different, which is not easy for my surroundings to accept. We all need to cross these barriers. ●

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▲ ▲ Yuan Xiangqiu  
 ▲ ▲ Location: Tiantai, Zhejiang  
 Aircraft: Sky Castle  
 Total costs: CNY 5,000  
 Desired flight altitude: 500m  
 Actual flight altitude: 1m

▲ ▲ He Dongbiao  
 ▲ ▲ Location: Xiaoshan, Zhejiang  
 Aircraft: Low altitude free man  
 Total costs: CNY 380,000  
 Desired flight altitude: 2500m  
 Actual flight altitude: 400m

▲ ▲ Zhang Dousan  
 ▲ ▲ Location: Chaozhou, Guangdong  
 Aircraft: Dousan N°5  
 Total costs: CNY 500,000  
 Desired flight altitude: 3000m  
 Actual flight altitude: 0m

▲ ▲ Jin Shaozhi  
 ▲ ▲ Location: Lishui, Zhejiang  
 Aircraft: Sky horse  
 Total costs: CNY 80,000  
 Desired flight altitude: 3000m  
 Actual flight altitude: 500m





▲ Wang Qiang  
Location: Cixi, Zhejiang  
Aircraft: Wang Qiang N°2  
Total costs: CNY 35,000  
Desired flight altitude: 3500m  
Actual flight altitude: 1500m