



Chen Changfen's Almost Centenarian

©Chen Changfen

CHEN CHANGFEN'S ARTIST'S STATEMENT



Life Beside the Wall
©Chen Changfen

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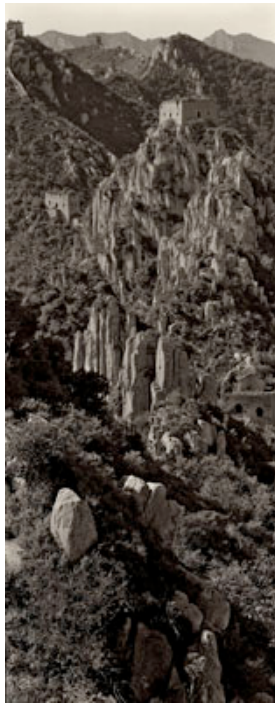
Chen Changfen walked to a corner of his studio where one wall held a white blank rectangle which served as a viewing screen. He switched on a DVD player, telling us this was the story of his photographing a 97 year old woman outside her home at the side of the Great Wall. The old woman had never had her picture taken before though she lives less than three hours from Beijing. Her village is remote and poor.

She accepted Chen Changfen's invitation to be photographed, then sat quietly, patiently, as only the very old can do. He photographed her beside a gate in the Wall. This part of the Wall is of packed earth, not the mortared

stone President Richard M. Nixon experienced when he first walked on the Wall to open China in 1972. Two other old women are in the video. They sit on the other side of the opening of the Wall, their hands hanging relaxed over their knees. Not as old as Chen Changfen's almost-centenarian, but still very old, they share her patience and serenity. On the DVD Chen Changfen fusses with his Toyo 8x10 field camera. He checks his exposure with a light meter, then checks it again. The women wait, not saying a word. Chen's video camera is running the entire time. Finally Chen Changfen trips the shutter.

I asked how many of these photographs he makes in a day. This day he made only two. On a day of high production he takes no more than eight. This forces him to be careful.

Chen took his camera and his helpers back to his studios where he developed and printed the photographs of the old woman. Months later he returned to her village, contact prints in hand for the woman. He handed them to her. She began to cry, because looking at the photographs reminded her of her mother, long since dead. An old woman mourns another old woman she sees in the photograph.



Castle on a Cliff
©Chen Changfen

CHANGFEN'S ARTIST'S STATEMENT

In 1965 I took my first photographs of the Great Wall. Then, the most impressive thing for me was not the greatness of the Great Wall, but that I was able to board the plane and take aerial photographs of the Wall. Perhaps I was



The Long View
©Chen Changfen

just as ignorant then as the workers who built the Great Wall, long before it was recognized after 2500 years as one of the world's great cultural heritages. In the days and years to follow I visited the Great Wall again and again, moving back and forth between the air and the ground. I have shot the Wall from near and far. Many of my photographs were published in various newspapers and magazines.

Sometimes I think I might be too close to the Wall to give any deep thought about it. Although there were many slogans and poetry description easier to pick up from my mind, I only began to focus real attention on the Wall in the late 1970s. Now I see the Great Wall as an expression of my feelings on arts and culture.

Only as you closely approach the Great Wall do you get a real sense of it. From the greatest of men to the common man, whoever sees the Great Wall will sigh emotionally and recognize it as a vast and wonderful work. The Wall is like a celebrity who has been subjected



Neighbors Gather on the Great Wall
©Chen Changfen

to both non-stop praise and criticism from the very moment of her creation. This seems to be the only way humans can express their perspective on such a momentous accomplishment.

The Great Wall is a piece of architecture. It is a towering monument to human evolution. It is so grand in scale no one can touch or know the whole of it. I can only try to see her from far away. The photographs you see here show my respect for the architecture of the Great Wall, and my understanding of the constant progress of mankind.



Riding in Style ©Chen Changfen

From its very beginning, the flow of history has never stopped. Bricks, mud, tiles, wood, metal, and stones are all a part of the Great Wall; and all have been weathered, worn and decayed by time, with parts of the Great Wall eventually being absorbed by the earth around it. Some parts of the Wall have been protected and continue to be protected; while others continue to suffer the ravages of time. Many of the northwest sections of the Great Wall have dissolved into the earth and we can only imagine her lost splendor

Editor's Note:

This is an interactive newsletter. To view larger versions of photographs, *please click on the thumbnail* and a larger image will automatically load.



Imperial Styles
©Chen Changfen

and glory from pictures and historical documents which survive.

Whenever I look at the repaired sections of the Great Wall, filled with fluttering flags, or shuttling cable cars filled with tourists, I feel like the Great Wall is a caged circus tiger. It performs soullessly under the hand of a tamer, while the audience applauds the human's ability to tame this wild beast with only a steely gaze and a cracking whip. I prefer watching over the Great Wall from far away, or to walk beside her, gently feeling her with a simple touch. As the Wall slowly decays, I would like to allow her a quiet return, knowing her soul will last far beyond any bricks or stones.

I have been to many sections of the Great Wall, *Shanhaiguan and Jiayuguan, Pingxingguan, Niangziguan, Zijingguan, Yanmenguan, Yumenguan, and Juyongguan.* Each section of the Wall is joined to the next by a *Guan*, or a "pass." My feeling toward those Guans is



Taking a Break
©Chen Changfen

one of rugged hardship, but of hope. The *Guan* is the most important component of the Great Wall, making it can be a pass to reach the next target or a place of lost hope and broken promise.

I seldom find any reference to the *Guan* when I read historical documents about the Great Wall. This may be because the history of the Great Wall is more one of emotion than of fact. Although the story of *Meng Jiangnv** is well known, we have few facts about such a vast and long term project as the Great Wall.



Firewall
©Chen Changfen

There is no classical literature or rhyme or reason to the Great Wall. Perhaps the Wall has such a political and military identity no one dares to use her as a dramatic or creative theme. In literature and history the Great Wall is only mentioned by a number of locations. There is little or no description of its planning or construction. The Wall is not the sense of pride from a glance, nor evidence of logical research, but "continuous" evolution through years of changes.



Not What it Seems
©Chen Changfen

I have not studied and explored the history of the Great Wall extensively. My photography of the Great Wall is much like walking quietly and passively along many miles of country road. The Great Wall is an important part of my life, but at the same time ordinary and unremarkable. I hope my works give a simple and true expression of what I feel as I photograph the Great Wall.

** Meng Jiangnv was a beautiful young woman who fell in love with a handsome young man trying to escape conscription into the construction of the Great Wall by China's first emperor, Emperor Qin Shi Huang Di. Meng Jiangnv and her lover marry, but on their wedding day he is captured and taken away. Meng Jiangnv looks for him in vain at many parts of the Great Wall under construction, only to finally discover he has died and been buried in the Wall. Her tears flow endlessly, causing the Wall to melt, exposing the body of her lover.*



Neighbors in front of Guan at Great Wall
©Chen Changfen



S 聖地牙哥中華歷史博物館 M SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

As his Artist's Statement reveals, Chen Changfen is an accomplished photographer and philosopher of the Great Wall. Internationally recognized for his sensitive photographs of the Great Wall, and those who live in and around it, Chen Changfen is coming to America for the second time to show his work.

His most recent show, in 2007 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, drew acclaim for its many visitors. He is returning to

the United States, this time to the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, for a two month exhibition of large format prints, and floor to ceiling scrolls.

The show promises to be popular with museum visitors and will run from July 19 to September 19.

The exhibit was made possible by a generous grant from National University College of Letters and Sciences, and the Society for Phenomenology and Media.

If you are in San Diego or plan to visit during the show, you'll find it at the Chuang Archive and Learning Center at 541-B, Second Avenue.

The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:30-4 pm, and Sunday, Noon-4 pm. SDCHM welcomes you to share in this remarkable collection!

For further information check the website at www.SDCHM.org.

Craig Huber told us about this one:

The Pacifica Chapter of The Center for Photographic History and Technology is sponsoring a 2014 Alt-Photo Symposium this coming September 12-14. There's a great lineup of speakers, with Mark Osterman as keynote presenter. The symposium will be held in Astoria, Oregon, and is hosted by LightBox Photographic Gallery. There's a juried exhibition of Alt-Photo work taking place at the Gallery, with entries due August 3rd. Check the [event website](#) for all the details.

THE PACIFICA CHAPTER OF THE
CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY PRESENTS

2014 NORTHWEST SYMPOSIUM FOR ALTERNATIVE PROCESS PHOTOGRAPHY

HOSTED BY LIGHTBOX PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY
SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2014 • ASTORIA, OREGON

KEYNOTE:
MARK OSTERMAN
19TH CENTURY EVOLUTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

PRESENTATIONS:

DIANA BLOOMFIELD
21ST CENTURY DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND
PRINT PROCESS EVOLUTION

SUSAN DE WITT
LITH PRINTING

DOUG ETHRIDGE
PHILOSOPHY OF CREATING A BODY OF WORK
DIGITAL NEGATIVES

S. GAYLE STEVENS
PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF WET PLATE COLLODION

BILL VACCARO
ZATYPE AND DRY PLATES, WET PLATE COLLODION

ACTIVITIES:

EXHIBITION OF ALT-PROCESS PHOTOGRAPHY
JURIED BY S. GAYLE STEVENS AT LIGHTBOX PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY

GILES CLEMENT - WET PLATE COLLODION PORTRAITS MADE
FOR SALE AT A MODEST PRICE

"BIRDS OF A FEATHER (FLOCK TOGETHER)" DISCUSSION GROUPS

PARTICIPANT TABLE DISPLAYS

OPTIONAL ALT-PROCESS PHOTO PRINT TRADE

\$125 EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION • **\$150** AFTER JULY 31ST

The Symposium will be held at the Historic Liberty Theater (upstairs).
The Exhibition will be at LightBox Photographic Gallery.
Go to www.altphotopacifica.org
and click on "Events" for registration, agenda, and additional information

the Photographers' Formulary

J U L Y 2 0 1 4

NEWSLETTER SPECIALS

Specials for the darkroom. All items *limited to stock on hand*

PREMIER 4-1 MAGNETIC EASEL

Limited to stock on hand



Cat. No.: 14-0237
Regular \$39.95
-50% = \$27.97

Perfectly aligned masks positioned for 1/4" margins.

The easel has perfectly aligned masks positioned for 1/4" margins. No adjustments needed. Magnetic latching locks instantly, keeping paper secure. Special focusing base. All steel construction. Rubber feet prevent slipping. Accommodates four most used paper sizes: 8x10", 5x7", 3.5x5" and 2.5x3.25". This are the perfect beginner easels: simple in design, construction, use and durable. With this easel, and a bit of practice, you can achieve perfect, borderless prints. Or you can center the exposure on the paper, resulting in a bordered print. The patented angles of the Delta retainer bars assure precision registration of each sheet of paper. The top easel bar is gently sloped and the left edge is flat to allow sliding of the paper in and out with ease. The non-skid bottom prevents the easel from slipping out of position. Each easel comes with three magnets: a 4, 8 and 10. Use one, two or three magnets to hold your paper in place.

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/premier-4-1-magnetic-easel/>

SODIUM BENZOATE

Limited to stock on hand



Cat#: 10-1155

We want to sell out our stock and clear the shelf!. This is \$5.00 for a one pound jar. It's a deal!

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/sodium-benzoate/>

GLASS BEAKER - THIS SIZE ONLY

Limited to stock on hand



Cat#: 09-0091

Regular \$6.95
-10% off= \$6.26

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/glass-beaker/>

DEVELOPING TRAYS

Limited to stock on hand



Cat#: 14-0255

Regular \$11.95
-30% off= \$8.37

Cat#: 14-0256

Regular \$11.95
-30% off= \$8.37

The Doran 16x20" Ribbed Developing Tray is made for hard daily professional use. This tray can be used for developing, processing, hypo, etc. It is constructed of white virgin styron, and is acid and stain resistant. These trays feature a cross-rib bottom for easy pick up of the prints, a tapered shape for convenient stacking, and a pour-spout corner for easy handling of chemicals and water.

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/developing-trays/>

YANKEE CLIPPER II ROLL TANKS

Limited to stock on hand



Cat. #: 14-1220

Master Roll Tank
Regular \$29.95
-50% off: \$14.98

Cat. No.: 14-1225

Standard Tank
Regular \$19.95

40% off: \$9.98

The Yankee Clipper II Daylight Developing Tank contains an adjustable reel which will work with all roll films from 110 to 220, including 35mm-36 exposure. Its patented Speed-O-Matic reel loads rapidly. The tank has a translucent flange for developing color reversal films. The included agitator has a built-in thermometer. The Clipper II has a capacity of 5 to 15 ounces of chemical and includes loading test strip and instructions.

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/yankee-clipper-ii-roll-tank/>

GLASS GRADUATED CYLINDER

Limited to stock on hand




Cat#: 09-0075

Regular \$12.95
-10% off= \$11.66

Cat#: 09-0082

Regular \$28.95
-10% off= \$26.05

<http://stores.photoformulary.com/glass-graduated-cylinder/>

NEW**	April & May Introductory	Our Introductory Workshop Series Film Photography - April 25-27 Printing From Film Negatives- May 2-4 Alt Process Printing from Digital Negatives - May 9-11 With Ray Nelson All inclusive on site costs \$495.00		Week 7	August 3-8 2014	Daguerreotype A Contemporary Approach With Jerry Spagnoli	Photography Beyond Technique With Tom Persinger
	Week 1 June 8-13 2014	Amazing Tri-Color Gum & Casein With Christina Z Anderson			Week 8 August 10-15 2014	iPhone iPad and iR Art With Theresa Airey	
Week 2	June 15-20 2014	Everything Albumen With Zoe Zimmerman	Gum Plat Print & Making Digital Negs Using QTR With Kerik Kouklis	Week 9	August 17-22 2014	Carbon Printing Using QTR Digital Negatives With Sandy King	Tin Types & Ambrotypes in Montana With Sean Kochel
	Week 3 June 22-27 2014	Alternative Process Printing with Digital Negatives With Ray Nelson			Week 10 September 28 Oct 3, 2014	Photography And Lightroom workshop With Rick Sheremeta	
Week 4				NEW**	Oct Introductory	Our Introductory Workshop Series Large Format Photography Oct 3-5 Printing From Film Negs- Oct 10-12 Alt Process Printing from Digital Negatives – Oct 17-19 With Ray Nelson All inclusive on site costs \$495.00	
	July 13-18 2014	Making a Personal Album or Journal, Start to Finish A Women's Retreat With Laura Blacklow			Save up to 25% off tuition An early registration by the 31st of March 2014 qualifies for a 15% discount on your workshop tuition. **Register and attend two classes consecutively and receive one night of your B&B stay free also receive a 10% Discount off the second weeks tuition Enjoy our women's retreats with Laura Blacklow and Jane Goffe. Renew yourself and restore your creativity. A spa is nearby and available for an extra cost.		
	Week 5 July 20-25 2014	Creative Hand Tinting With Jane Goffe			Remember our bring a friend Discount 10% is available when you both sign up for the same workshop		
Week 6	July 27 -August 1 2014	Bookmaking With Anna Tomczak	Gumoil Printing With Michelle Pritzl				