

all roads film Project



2007 All Roads Photography Program Award Winner

A Yin (China, Inner Mongolia)

Highland Mongolian Life



Bio:

Born into a poor herdsman's family in Inner Mongolia, A Yin is a self-taught freelance photographer. In 1998, he started a project on the vanishing nomadic tribes in the Wu Zhu Qin grasslands under the documentary title *Mongolian*. He set up a commercial studio that he self-funded to finance his personal work. Yin continues to follow the traditional lifestyle of a Mongolian herdsman while carrying out his project to document the destruction of the grasslands. As well as documenting the disappearing lifestyle, he uses his photography to raise awareness of the plight of the grasslands. He uses a black-and-white-film format — from 35mm to 4" x 5" film — to complete his portraits of social documentary, all in the pursuit of capturing on film the changing Mongolian culture.

Personal Essay:

Mongolia is considered to be one of the few highly remote places remaining in the world, yet the forces of globalization in today's world are quickly changing the traditional way of life for the descendents of Genghis Khan. The need for economic development is rapidly changing the face of Mongolia; horses are being replaced with motorcycles, and herders are struggling to deal with grassland degradation. Severe sandstorms are destroying the environment and, as a result, my own culture. As a Mongolian photographer, it is very important for me to document these crucial times and share the stories with the world.