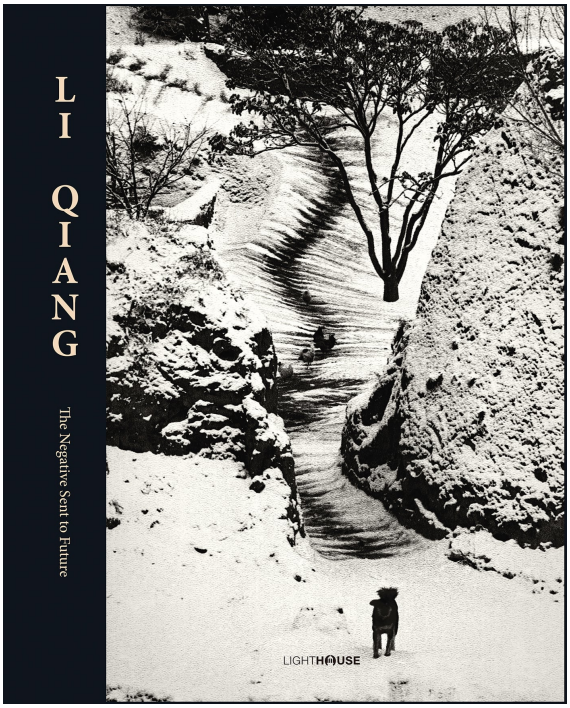
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Li Qiang

The Negative Sent to Future

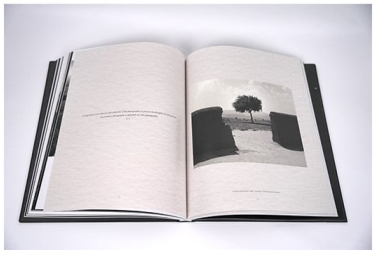
By (photographer) Li Qianq

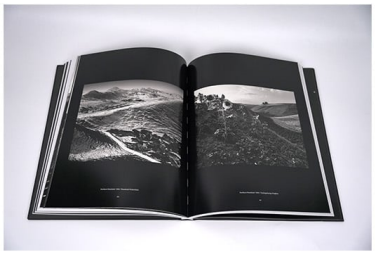
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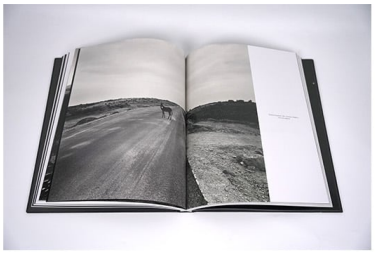
- Rural black and white photography of contemporary China

Li Qiang: The Negative Sent to Future is a collection of photographic works by artist Li Qiang, taken between the 1980s and 2020s. It includes three series: *Northern Homeland, Distant Memories*, and *City Encounter*. Li Qiang's photographs are predominantly black and white, capturing portraits, cityscapes, rural society, and plateau landscapes against specific cultural and historical backdrops. In his photographic language, Li Qiang maintains an existentialist style: profound yet not oppressive, as if the subjects themselves are speaking, seemingly saying everything, yet saying nothing at all. *The Northern Homeland* series takes us back to the countryside and wilderness of Northwest China, back to the existential realm of solitary wandering in the wilderness; the *Distant Memories* series records life under the pure sky of the Southwest Plateau, mostly indistinct silhouettes, as if embraced by the heavens while maintaining an impressionistic distance from them; while the *City Encounter* series transforms the commonplace things of the city into fresh experiences for the soul, as if the reader themselves has just arrived from the distant countryside, only having caught a fleeting glimpse of the dazzling lights of the big city. The three themes intertwine, leading readers back and forth between the city of real life and the distant spiritual homeland.

Li Qiang, a contemporary photographer and calligrapher/painter, was born in Dingbian, Shaanxi Province in 1959. He studied painting on his own in his early years and began exploring photography in 1981. From 1985 to 1987, he studied photography at the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts. Since 1998, he has taught photography at the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts. He returned to painting in 2008, creating the *Northern Homeland* series of oil paintings and ink paintings.







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