YUANZHE CUI

A wildlife filmmaker and photographer from China with experience documenting animal behaviour on the Tibetan Plateau and a passion for telling the stories of the people who protect wildlife.

EDUCATION

MA Wildlife Filmmaking 2026
University of the West of England, Bristol

HONOURS & AWARDS

- 2024 First Prize, Sony Ecological Photography Competition
- 2025 Highly Commended, Young Photographers, 35th Memorial María Luisa International Photo Contest, for Bee Eater's Dinner
- 2026 Finalist, Golden Turtle wildlife photography competition
- 2025 Selected photographer, Coexistence with Nature, Canal Exhibition, Wuxi

SKILLS

CINEMA CAMERAS
Sony FX3, FX6 and CineAlta systems, Canon Cinema EOS, RED V-RAPTOR and GEMINI, ARRI ALEXA Mini, Mini LF and ALEXA 35, Phantom high-speed cameras. Sony A1 and Nikon D810 for stills.

LENSES & DRONES
Canon CN20x50, Laowa Probe and long telephoto primes and zooms. DJI Mavic 3 Pro, Air 3, Inspire 3 and Avata 2.

POST-PRODUCTION
DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer, Photoshop, Lightroom, Adobe Bridge and Silverstack (DIT).

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native)
English (Proficient)

CONTACT

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EXPERIENCE

Director, Producer, Cinematographer & Editor **2026**
After the Hunt | Documentary short, 14 min 47 sec

- Directed a documentary following Rou Bao, a former hunter who now runs a conservation station in Qinghai, China. Researched his story, arranged access and planned a 15-day shoot based at 4,300 metres.
- Filmed Rou Bao on patrol and interviewed him about the decision to give up hunting. Recorded wild snow leopards, including a hunting sequence with blue sheep.
- Edited the film in DaVinci Resolve, building the story around Rou Bao's interviews, observed animal behaviour and location sound.

Field Camera Operator & Researcher **Dec 2023 – Apr 2025**
***Dulan Hezhilong Conservation Station**, Qinghai, China*

- Tracked wildlife with scientists, rangers and local guides during repeated field visits. Used their observations to identify animal behaviour worth following on camera.
- Filmed plateau wildlife with RED V-RAPTOR and ARRI ALEXA 35 cameras and a Canon CN20x50 long lens. Worked at altitude in cold conditions, observing and filming from a distance.
- Prepared risk assessments for remote shoots and put safety measures into practice in the field. Backed up, reviewed and catalogued footage for handover to post-production.

Independent photography & filmmaking **2022 – present**
Freelance filmmaker, digital creator and conservation advocate

- Built a network of wildlife scientists, guides and production crews across China and Africa. Work with these contacts during pre-production to identify filming locations, research wildlife behaviour and find local contributors.
- Develop, shoot and edit wildlife shorts and behind-the-scenes films for 40,000+ followers across social platforms. Handle colour grading in DaVinci Resolve through to final delivery.
- Deliver commissioned photography and video for Sony, Insta360, vivo and Fotopro, working directly with clients on briefs, on-camera presentations and revisions.
- Host weekly livestreams on biodiversity, habitat protection and climate change, answering viewers' questions about wildlife and conservation.

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIP

Sony Certified Instructor
DaVinci Resolve Certified Colorist
Member, 8KRAW