

Life & Arts

FTWeekend



SNAPSHOT

Guanyu Xu's 'Resident Aliens' (2021)

In the US, a "resident alien" is a person who legally resides in the country without holding citizenship. This label prompted Guanyu Xu to create *Resident Aliens*, an intimate photographic series looking at the homes of immigrants caught in the uncertainty of bureaucratic limbo.

Xu, who emigrated from China to Chicago in 2014, began this project in 2019. He visits people holding various visa statuses, photographing their rooms and personal objects, then gathering these images alongside the subjects' own archival photographs.

Returning later, he installs all the prints throughout the space, layering memories and histories into a temporary tableau. For this image, Xu collaborated with a software engineer from India, inviting him to choose photos from his past and integrating them into his living room. Now on view in New York, the series considers the complexities of migration and the resilience of those trying to prove where they belong.

Constance Ayrton

'Resident Aliens' is on view at Yancey Richardson, New York, to December 20