

Capturing aviation through Ethan Wong’s lens

BY LILLY WU

Standing just 50 feet away from the runway at the Naval Air Station Fallon, sophomore Ethan Wong strategically positions himself before clicking his camera to capture the Lockheed Martin F-35C as it flies by. As the training facility of the United States Navy that inspired the movie “Top Gun Maverick,” the NAS Fallon was just one of the many places Wong visited to practice his aviation photography. Through his Instagram account and online portfolio, Wong shares images of different subjects ranging from aviation to galaxies.

In 2022, Wong started his journey with his iPhone camera, taking pictures of everything and

anything around him. After realizing his father owned a Panasonic LUMIX G DMC-GF3 camera, which was even older than him, Wong began using it to propel his own photography journey. As he progressed into this hobby, Wong eventually bought higher-quality equipment, with the Canon EOS-5D Mark IV as his main camera and the Canon EOS-1DX Mark II for backup. Since he always had an interest in planes from a young age, Wong quickly gravitated toward aviation photography, or “planespotting,” and has continued the hobby ever since.

“I remember scrolling through Instagram and seeing many people posting photos of planes and found it interesting,” Wong said. “It wasn’t necessarily the easiest subject to start out with, but it allowed me to develop the skills I have today.”

To take these photos, Wong frequents many airshows or military bases in his free time. One of his favorite airshows occurred in April 2023 at the March Air Reserve Base in Los Angeles, where he had to take two flights to make the one-day trip to the venue.

Wong is able to share his photography through his Instagram account @ethanwong.photo.

Since launching the account in October 2022, Wong consistently posts about three times a week, featuring new

batches of photos from different events or trips.

“I thought Instagram was the best place to share my photos with others,” Wong said. “Everything on my page is designed by me; I just like putting it out there for people to enjoy.”

Through Instagram, Wong has met and befriended many other local photographers. One is junior Jonas Rossiter at Archie Williams High School, another fellow aviation photographer from the Bay Area, who met Wong through a mutual group chat. Despite never meeting in person, the two bonded over exchanging feedback on their photos and chatting about photography.

“I really like Ethan’s photography,” Rossiter said. “There’s a lot of variety in how he takes pictures and he is always able to find unique angles and ways to make a subject look interesting, which is especially difficult with aviation photography.”

Despite aviation photography still being his main focus, Wong plans on branching out to new subjects to photograph such as the components of the natural world. This led to his interest in astrophotography, which involves photographing the stars and sky.

“I really want to get into astrophotography even though it’s the hardest type of photography,” Wong said. “Some shots are actually thousands of

photos stacked into one, and I want to learn the process just as a way to challenge myself. However, I won’t be able to do so just yet until I get the right equipment.”

In the future, Wong hopes to continue pursuing his hobby. As for his career, Wong plans on using his connections from aviation photography to become a pilot if he is provided with the opportunities to do so. With the Air Force Academy as his dream school, Wong finds it useful to help serve his country while doing something he loves.

While looking back on his own photography journey, Wong reflects on the mistakes that he has made along the way and considers what advice he would give his younger self and other aspiring photographers.

“In photography, it’s okay to mess up as long as you learn from your mistakes,” Wong said. “Use photography as a way to express what you are not able to communicate with others. It’s also important to remember that it is you who takes the photo, and not your camera.”



PHOTO BY LILLY WU  
ILLUSTRATION BY THE FEATURES SECTION

Fashion Forward: Amy Sun fuses style and technology

BY ALYSSA WANG

Under the flickering light of her bedside lamp, Class of 2021 Lynbrook alumna Amy Sun continues sewing the last piece of her recent collection, Genesis, in which she focuses on what she calls a “Neo-Chinese” style. Desiring to modernize elements of Hanfu — traditional Han Chinese clothing — in her style, Sun began YINGNA, her clothing brand.

After founding the University of Washington’s fashion club, MESH, in her freshman year, and helping organize its first fashion show, Sun created her brand in 2021. Her initial goal was to educate others about Chinese culture. Researching more about her Han Chinese background, Sun realized how unrecognized her culture’s traditional clothing was. She hoped to popularize her culture’s clothing and to share her appreciation for it with others. Wanting to further connect her brand and her heritage, she named it YINGNA, a combination of her Chinese name, sūn shān nà, and nickname, yíng yíng.

“I have always thought that culture and fashion is beautiful, and I want to

share it with others,” Sun said. “There is also little Hanfu awareness within the Chinese-American community, and I want to be able to combat that.”

Sun was always interested in fashion and clothing, and joined Lynbrook’s Indesign in her freshman year. The club’s creative flexibility allowed her to create different stylistic pieces while incorporating unconventional items. She then became a designer for Indesign’s annual fashion show, learning different styles and techniques throughout those four years.

“All the members of Indesign were always encouraging and supporting one another, and having that space on campus to sew and learn with really fortified my skills,” Sun said.

With her experiences from working in Indesign, Sun has started her own clothing line. Much like her initial process at Lynbrook, she still utilizes thrifted materials and unconventional designs to create unique pieces that showcase her culture. To ensure the success of each piece in her collection, Sun has to go through an extensive process: from brainstorming different styles and researching designs to planning and creating the piece itself. In the past, the creation process had been more spontaneous; Sun simply cut and sewed, seeing where each cut of the fabric would take her and adjusting when needed.

However, as her brand and goals grew, her process did as well.

“I used to always dive in head first,” Sun said. “Now that I have rebranded, I do a lot of research to make sure I include all the unique details and properly showcase my culture. My new process makes the actual creation process much more efficient, and

my designs come out much cleaner.”

As an Informatics and Arts double major, Sun not only studies art but also the intersection of technology and society. She plans to try using 3D-printed fabrics to make her pieces more sustainable and produce more professional accessories for her next collection. Sun also hopes to include wearable LED lights and motherboards in the future, creating better textiles and more unconventional pieces.

“Fashion has never really incorporated any sort of technology, and many designers focus on using traditional fabrics and methods for their pieces,” Sun said. “However, it’s always my dream to be able to combine them. Testing out more innovative fabrics means that we can sample what the future of fashion can be.”

With the growth of her brand, Sun hopes to expand her clothing collections and continue to craft at least one new collection a year. She wants to inspire others to experiment outside traditional

fashion rules and is confident that her pieces will be a part of the movement that paves the future of fashion.

“As a college student, I don’t know how long I can keep my brand going,” Sun said. “However, it ever does come to a close, I hope that my designs successfully spread more of my culture and show that fashion has no true limits.”



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