Newly opened

Be Zure

Be Zure is local interior designer Catherine Chen's first venture and sells sumptuous but affordable bedding and homeware. While the Friendship Store might not be everyone's first port of call for classy items, everything in Be Zure is handmade, from the highest quality linen to cotton and silk. Chic table cloths made from 100 per cent linen cost 580RMB, while embroidered cushions cost from 889RMB. However the real standout pieces are the cushions (699RMB) and throws (899RMB) made from old, hand-embroidered Guizhou fabric with raw silk. Be Zure also provides custom-made services, and the fact that Chen visits Muxiyan fabric market three times a week is clear from the quality of the materials. A personalised 800-thread four-piece duvet set will set you back 1,800RMB, including a pillow case.

Beijing Postcards

Ten years ago, two self-confessed nerds started collecting photographs of China from the 1890s to 1940s, a collection which is now on sale on Nanluoguxiang. Danes Simon Rom Gjerec and Lars Ulrik Thom bought many of these historic snapshots at auctions but, incredibly, some were also acquired from the descendants of Danish missionaries who used to live in the city. It's fascinating to see images of Dashilan and Tiananmen as they used to be. Other photos depict old family portraits and quotidian street scenes, such as a man proudly standing by his bicycle and old men smoking their pipes.

Gjerec and Thom are both passionate and knowledgeable about their collection, and are more than happy to give quick history lessons about each snap. What they seem most delighted by is the Chinese reaction to their collection. Local visitors who constantly mill in and out clearly delight in the nostalgia. The postcards cost a mere 5RMB and the calendars are 50RMB, while larger prints range from 100RMB to 200RMB with a frame. They also have some beautiful antique maps on display, including a Johnson's Atlas from 1864 that's going for 1,000RMB. Their website is as interactive as the shop, and helpfully details the stories behind each picture. In September they will also begin giving a series of lectures at Garden Books, starting with a visual evolution of Tiananmen.

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