



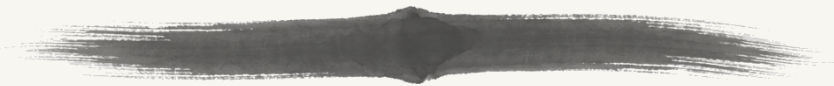
In Loving Memory

Remembering Mei-Ling Chen

28th June 1993 – 15th August 2024

28 June 2536 BE – 15 August 2567 BE

*Graphic Designer, Meditator, Maker of Excellent
Dumplings*





Mei-Ling Chen

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Remembering Mei-Ling Chen

Graphic Designer, Meditator, Maker of Excellent Dumplings

Mei-Ling Chen was born on 28 June 1993 in Hong Kong to Wei and Li-Hua Chen. She was the middle child of three, the one her parents described as the thoughtful one — slower to speak than her siblings, quicker to notice things. She came to London in 2012 to study Graphic Design at Central Saint Martins, graduated in 2015, stayed because London felt like the right size of life, and joined the design studio Fieldwork later that year, where she spent her career making things beautiful and useful.

Outside work, Mei-Ling was a serious practitioner of Tibetan Buddhist meditation. She had attended retreats in Scotland, Nepal and Thailand, kept a daily sitting practice, and was part of a small London sangha she had found through a friend in 2018. She read widely in both English and Chinese, kept a sketchbook with obsessive consistency, and had been photographing London — particularly its quieter residential corners, the bins and railings and back-garden trees — for years, building an archive she had plans for that she would not now complete. She also made very good dumplings, a skill passed down from her maternal grandmother, and fed her friends generously.

Mei-Ling died suddenly on 15 August 2024, following a brain haemorrhage. She was 31 years old. Her parents and sister Mei-Xiu flew from Hong Kong and were with her. Her brother Wei-Jun followed two days later. She is held in the hearts of everyone who knew her, and in the particular quality of quiet attention she brought to every room she was in.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In Memory of Mei-Ling Chen

yasin · 7 June 2026

Wei and Li-Hua Chen, and Mei-Ling's siblings Mei-Xiu and Wei-Jun, announce with profound grief the sudden passing of Mei-Ling Chen on 15 August 2024. She was 31 years old. A memorial gathering for friends in London will be held in September. Details to follow here.

EVENT

London Memorial Gathering

yasin · 7 June 2026

When: 7 September 2024, 2:00pm — 7 September 2024, 5:00pm

Where: Hackney Buddhist Centre, 58 Roman Road, London, E2 0RN

Friends and colleagues of Mei-Ling are invited to gather in her memory. There will be space for quiet reflection, for sharing memories, and for sitting together. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring a photograph of her if you have one you would like to share.



EULOGY

What I Want People to Know

Jing Wei · 7 June 2026

Mei-Ling was my closest friend for eleven years. We met on the first day of the foundation course at Central Saint Martins and I knew quite quickly that she was the kind of person you do not let drift out of your life.

She was quiet in a way that is easy to misread. She was not shy. She was paying attention. She absorbed things — a conversation, a piece of music, a tree — at a depth that most of us do not manage. And then she made things from what she had absorbed. Her sketchbooks, which I have now been asked to help archive, are extraordinary. She drew what she saw, but what she saw was not what everyone else was looking at.

She had been meditating seriously since she was twenty-two. She talked about it without pretension or evangelism — she just did it, the way she did everything she committed to. I went on one retreat with her in Scotland and she sat for six hours in a way that looked entirely natural. Afterwards she was hungry and made tea and was completely normal.

I am going to miss her for a very long time. I am going to miss the particular quality of being known by her, which was gentle and non-negotiable and irreplaceable. I hope she knows how much light she left behind.

MEMORY

The Dumplings

Jing Wei · 7 June 2026

Every Chinese New Year, Mei-Ling made dumplings. This was not a casual activity. It began the evening before with the preparation of the filling — pork and prawn, her grandmother's recipe — and continued the next morning with the folding, which she did with a precision that was somewhat intimidating to watch. She taught me to fold and I was terrible at it and she was very patient about this. She never made fewer than two hundred. There were never leftovers.



MEMORY

The Flat on Queensbridge Road

Yuki Nakamura · 7 June 2026

We were flatmates for three years and I learned things from living with Mei-Ling that I use every day. She was the most organised person I have shared a space with — not rigidly, but in a way that made the space work for both of us. She had very few possessions but chose each one carefully. Her desk was always clear except for the sketchbook and a glass of water. She said clutter made it hard to think. I have been clearing my own desk ever since.

MEMORY

The Photographs

Yuki Nakamura · 7 June 2026

Mei-Ling had been photographing London street furniture for years — bins, road signs, gates, back-garden walls, the texture of old brick. It sounds unlikely but the photographs are beautiful. She had plans for them that she described as "not quite formed yet." We are working with her family to find a way to exhibit them, because they deserve to be seen. She had a gift for finding the dignity in ordinary things.



MEMORY

At the Yoga Class

Sunita Pillai · 7 June 2026

I met Mei-Ling at a yoga class in Dalston three years ago and we became the kind of friends who arrive early and stay late, getting in the teacher's way. She was calm in a way I aspired to and she was completely un sentimental about it — she did not talk about peace as a destination, just as something you returned to when you remembered. She gave me a book about Buddhist practice once without any recommendation attached, just "I thought you might like this." She was right.

CONDOLENCE

From Fieldwork Studio

Jing Wei · 7 June 2026

Mei-Ling joined Fieldwork in 2015 and shaped this studio in ways that are hard to quantify. Her work was clear, considered, and surprising in the best possible way. She made our work better. She made us better at asking good questions. We are devastated. We are holding her family and her friends in our hearts. She mattered here beyond the work.

CONDOLENCE

From the London Sangha

Yuki Nakamura · 7 June 2026

Our sangha has lost one of its quietest and most committed members. Mei-Ling sat with us for six years. She asked good questions and was thoughtful about the practice in a way that helped all of us. She will be deeply missed in the hall. We dedicate our merit to her. May she be held in peace.

PRAYER

Dedication of Merit

Jing Wei · 7 June 2026

Whatever merit arises from remembering Mei-Ling Chen with love and gratitude — let it be dedicated to all beings without exception. May she be free from suffering. May she be at peace. May the love she gave return to those who need it. May we carry her quality of attention forward into the world. Om mani padme hum.

MEMORY

She Designed My Wedding Invitation

7 June 2026

I want to keep my name private out of respect for her family, who do not know me well. Mei-Ling designed my wedding invitation as a favour, as a friend of a friend. She spent three weeks on something she was not paid for and refused payment when I offered it. She sent me five versions, each one better than the last, with very quiet notes about why she had made each choice. The invitation was more beautiful than anything I could have imagined. I still have it. I still think about the care that went into it.

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