

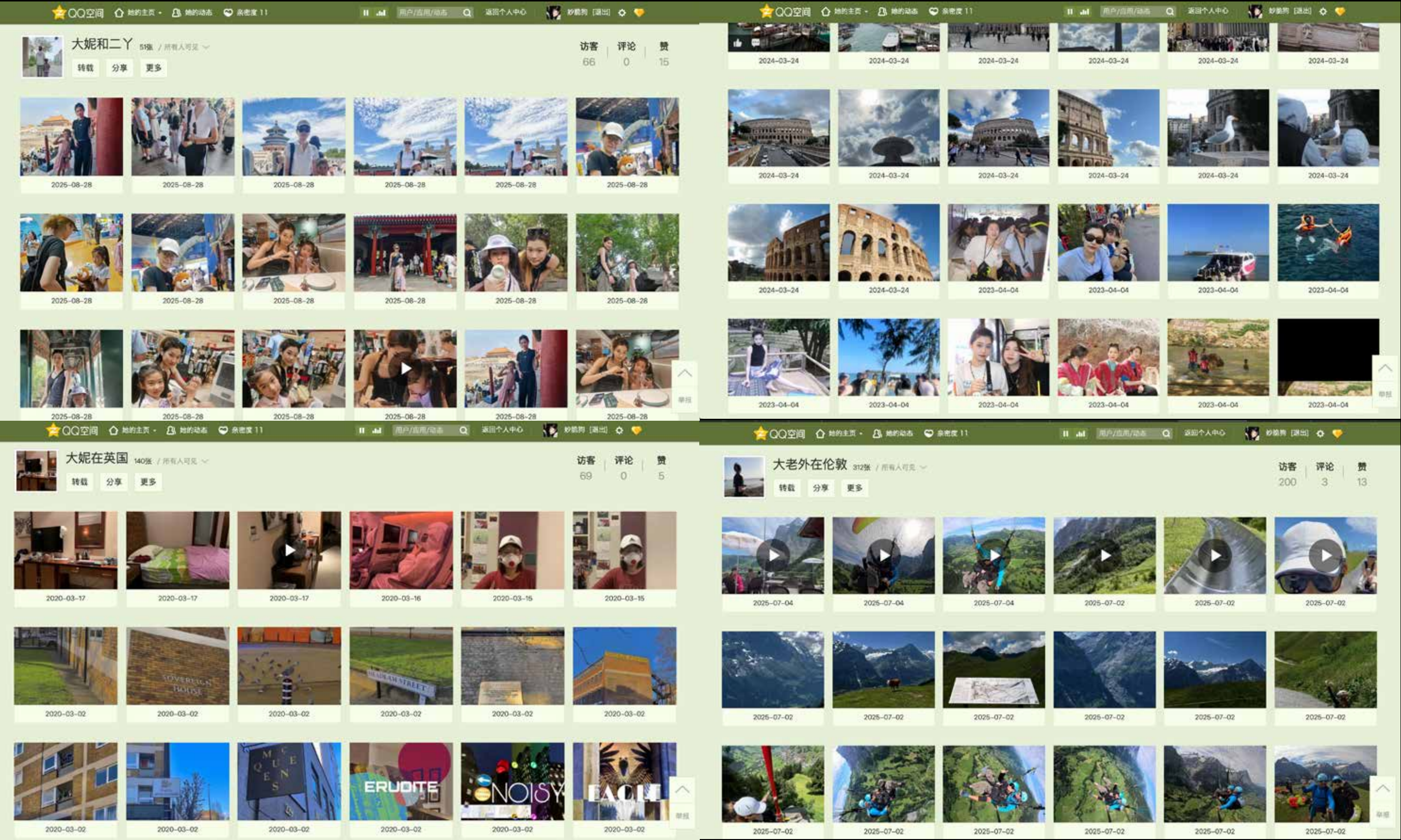
Δ1 STUDIO



When I think about which object in my home means the most to me, I always remember this jade pendant my grandma gave me. We call it a "Ping'an Kuo" in Chinese—a "peace knot." It's this beautiful donut-shaped piece of jade.

What makes it so special is that it once belonged to her mother. When she passed it down to me, it wasn't just a piece of jewelry. It felt like she was handing me a physical piece of our family's story. To me, it's so much more than just a piece of jade; it's like all the love and quiet caring between three generations is held right there.

The name, "Ping'an Kuo," carries its own wish—it symbolizes peace, health, and happiness. It's my grandma's way of wishing me a safe and smooth life.



And it makes me think of another habit of hers. My grandma has this special photo album, filled with pictures of my life here in London. And I know, whenever she misses me, she'll take out her phone, look at my photos, and gently trace her fingers over the screen.



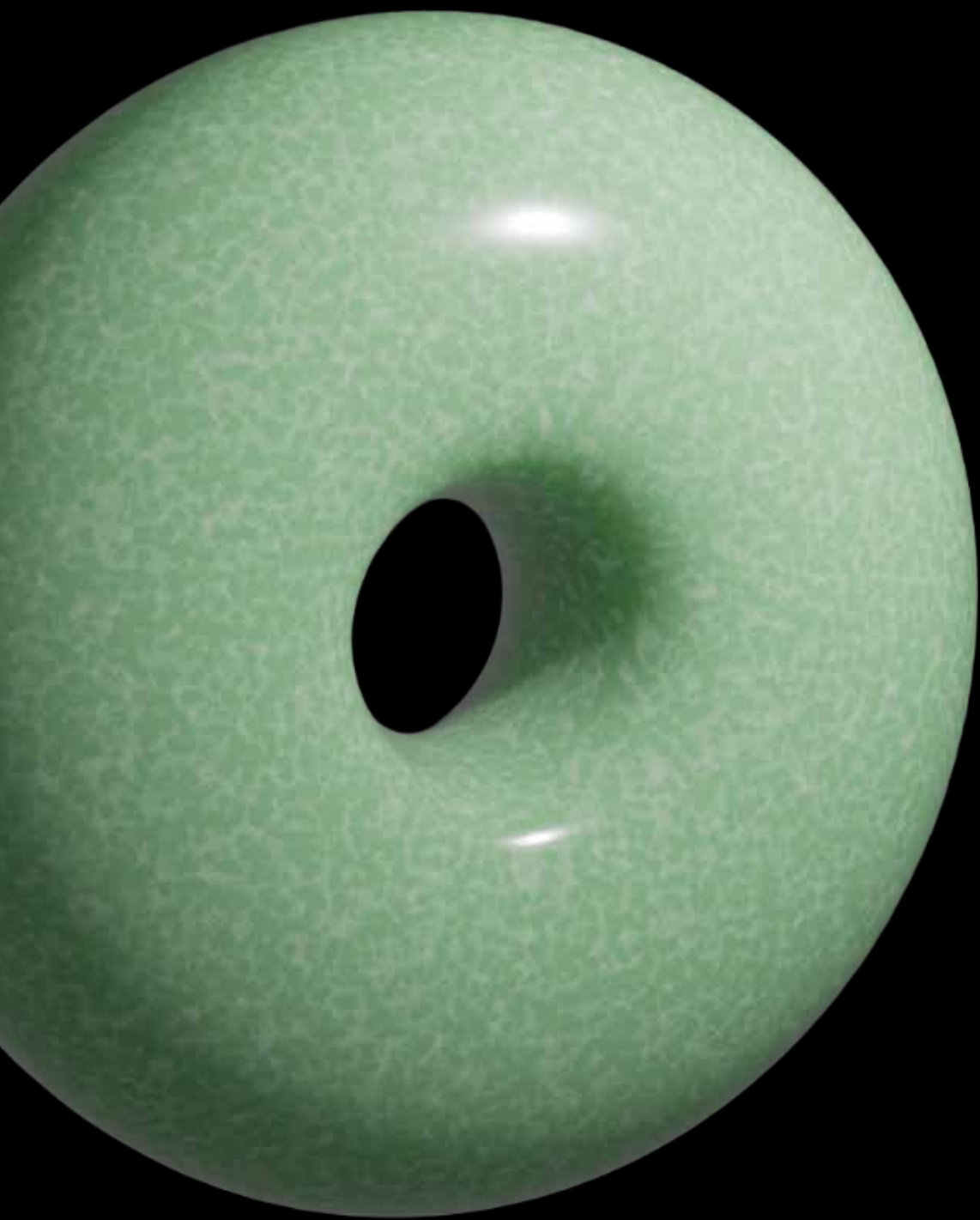
Gesture It reminds me so much of a traditional Chinese practice called "nurturing jade." It's this ritual where you gently rub a piece of jade over time. The idea is that through this constant, warm contact, the cold stone slowly becomes softer and glossier, almost as if it comes alive. You build a real, personal connection with it.

People in China love to "nurture jade" because we believe that the brighter and more vibrant it becomes, the more powerful its protective energy is. It's like you're charging it with your own care, and in return, it keeps you safe.

Nowadays, for older generations like my grandma, all their longing for their children far away gets poured into these glowing screens. Their love is quiet and reserved. All the words they don't say are felt in that silent, repeated gesture of tracing a finger over a photo.

And when I miss my grandma, I find myself doing the same thing—I'll hold my jade pendant and gently run my fingers over it, hoping to draw strength from her love and the connection it represents.

To me, this makes the jade's original monetary value completely irrelevant. In these moments, it transforms into something else entirely—a vessel for emotion. And seeing how my grandma interacts with my photos made me realize that her phone screen has become her "jade." Both the photograph and the jade have become different vessels, carrying the exact same weight of love across the distance.



Can a digital object ever have the same emotional weight and personal story as a piece of jade?

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Can a digital object, like a piece of jade, carry emotional weight and a life story that go beyond its physical form?

How can I use design to tell a new story about love and family connection in the digital age?

Digital Nurturing of Jade

Interactive Installation

This is an interactive piece where you use your own hands to mimic the gentle, circular motion of "nurturing jade," connecting with a digital jade pendant on the screen. It's about physically experiencing the slow, mindful process of caring for the jade over time.

That simple act of touch is itself a form of communication. In these moments, the jade—whether physical or digital—transforms. It becomes a vessel for our emotions.

I hope is that as people interact, they can see and feel the jade changing in response. And when they reach out to touch it, perhaps, through the screen, they can feel a trace of warmth—the warmth of human connection.

