

Jichi Zhang

Jichi has a practice-led inquiry into maintenance, protocol, and ownership as structural forces rather than themes. He works with materials engineered to remain temporary, protective membranes, architectural coverings, industrial films and tapes. They already belong to a regime of care: they stabilise, isolate, and prevent exposure, then withdraw. He is interested in the moment when this regime begins to lose authority, and in what still holds once protection can no longer be provided.

In his work, maintenance is not a neutral technical act but a political relation. It determines what is kept legible, what is kept hidden, and crucially, who benefits from the continuation of a structure. For that reason, he treats maintenance as delay rather than repair, care rather than possession, and tension rather than order. The work exists only while maintenance remains required; it ends when maintenance becomes unnecessary or impossible.

Protocols function as living materials. Rules are executed until they fatigue, until their clarity collapses, their authority loosens, and their contradictions become visible. Language is not used to explain the work; it operates as a score that spends time, structures duration, and carries responsibility without resolving it. What matters is the interface: the contact zone where protection becomes legible as adhesion and equally as trace, peeling, slipping, residue, and deformation.

He is also interested in how transparency collapses as a guarantee of clarity. When protective surfaces become excessively visible, they do not necessarily reveal what they were meant to safeguard; instead, they produce hesitation, an image of care that cannot be completed. Space and time are treated as constraints rather than contexts: installations are repeatable tests that shift with each site, reinstallation, and material fatigue. Changes are not corrected but archived as continuations of the work's conditions.

He understands neutrality as an interval, a suspended responsibility where ownership cannot be completed. Small acts of displacement interrupt the chain of belonging without becoming heroic gestures or moral performances. What the work produces is not an object, but a maintained condition: an ongoing test of the minimum rules required for something to remain, without becoming stable.



am, house, 2025
public install shot



Pre-am (2), 2025
install shot



if, 2025
install shot



if, 2025
install shot



Pre-am (3), 2025
install shot



by, 2026
install shot



Backroom, bündel, 2025
install shot