

Jichi Zhang

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

In my 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, I treat 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, deformation.

I am 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.

I understand neutrality not as a reachable state but 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.



if, 2025
install shot



Pre-am (2), 2025
install shot



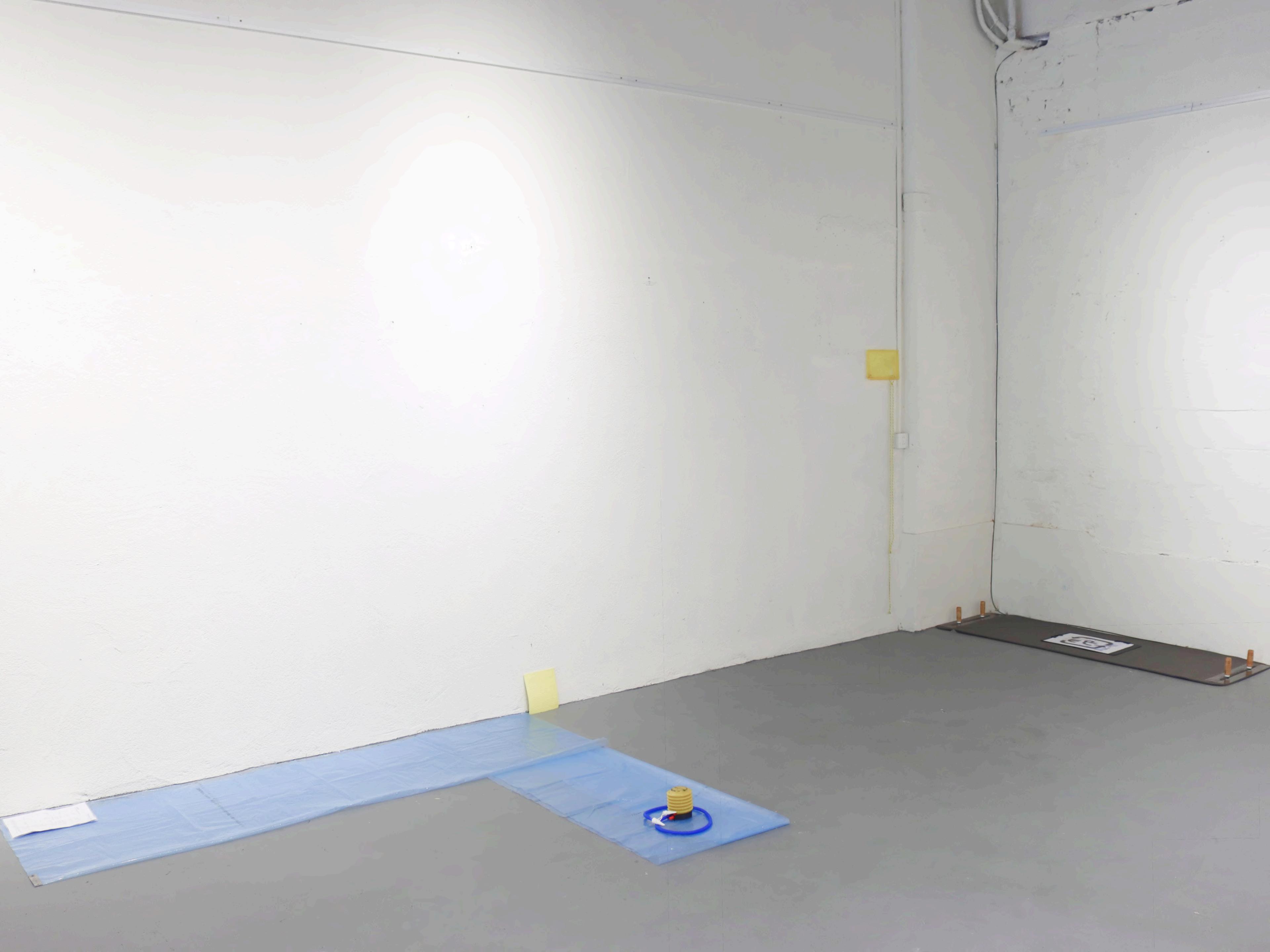
am, house, 2025
public install shot



Backroom, bündel, 2025
install shot



Pre-am (3), 2025
install shot



am, 2025
install shot



am, 2025
install shot



Insomnia, 2021
install shot

A B S E N T G A L L E R Y

Jichi Zhang

Born in 2001, Hohhot, CN
Lives and works in London

Education

2027
Slade School of Fine Art (Sculpture), London

2026
St. George's, London

2025
Central Saint Martins (XD pathway), London

2024
Universität der Künste Berlin (Prof. Schutter), Berlin

Solo Exhibitions

2026
(TBD). Shibuya, Tokyo (upcoming)
by. L Gallery, Hangzhou, CN (upcoming)

2025
if. Chinese American Arts Council/ Gallery 456, New York
am. Absent Gallery, Guangzhou, CN

2022
Insomnia. Suns white, Shenzhen, CN

2021
Volcano. VO Art Union, Shenzhen, CN

Group Exhibitions

2025
「？」. Automatism Studio, Shanghai
Abstract Image. Three Zeros Contemporary Art Centre (798), Beijing
Aria of the Unheard. Sol de Paris, Paris
Windows Granted. The Handbag Factory, London
Stay with the murmur. Pink Gallery, A Space Gallery, Manchester, UK/ New York
Porcelain (degree show). Central Saint Martins, London

A B S E N T G A L L E R Y

La beauté du petit. Sol de Paris, Paris
hem. The Good Rice Gallery, London
Pre-am. Central Saint Martins, London

2024

Backroom, der Gepäckschiebekarren. Central Saint Martins, London
To & from. The Good Rice Gallery, London
ART COLLECTIVE: From the One to the Many. Saatchi Gallery, London
The Border of Cloud. Changchuan Art Museum, Suzhou, CN
Re-Activate. The National Gallery, London
ROTOR. Louvre Museum, Paris
Knock knock. Universität der Künste Garten, Berlin

2023

Selfie. The Koppel Project Station, London
Me. The Koppel Project Station, London
Intro. The Koppel Project Station, London
A Villain. Brighton Palace Pier, Brighton, UK
City Studios. Crumbles Castle Adventure Playground, London
Pipe. Finsbury Park, London

2022

Microscope. Central Saint Martins, London
Grey Buffer. North Bund Art Warehouse, Shanghai
Margins. Studio Delta, Guangzhou, CN

2021

Disappearing Surfaces. Baishizhou Art Project, Shenzhen, CN
ni”. Warehouse 44, Shenzhen, CN

2020

Red. Warehouse 44, Shenzhen, CN
Path. Warehouse 44, Shenzhen, CN
Seize. Warehouse 44, Shenzhen, CN

2019

Transparent Boundaries. Fabric Depot, Shanghai

2018

i almost tried. Lizhi Park, Shenzhen, CN
Peripheral Light. Shipyard Space, Guangzhou, CN

Awards, Residencies, Artist engagements

2025

Longlist, ArtEvol 2025, London
Inherila Life Science Technology, UK
Consultation with curatorial team, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK

A B S E N T G A L L E R Y

2023

The Koppel Project Station, London
ONES TO WATCH, London Fashion Week, London

2021

Suns white, Shenzhen, CN

Collections

LAC, London
Atypia, Shanghai
Liaoning University, Shenyang, CN

Jichi Zhang Bibliography

Books and research papers

2024

'Advanced Music classification using a combination of capsule neural network by upgraded ideal gas molecular movement algorithm', Scientific Reports, 14(1)
Jichi. London: Jichi Zhang.

Reviews

Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, ArtRabbit, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, Chinese American Arts Council, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, Asian American Arts Alliance, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, Mutual Art, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, ARTWEEK, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, China Press, US
Jichi Zhang: if, 12 Dec 2025, Sing Tao Daily, US
456畫廊實驗性展覽反抗藝術體制, 12 Dec 2025, World Journal, US
Jichi Zhang_am without I, 4 Aug 2025, Art Practitioner, CN
Seeking Flourish In Fragments: A Look At Jichi Zhang, 16 Jul 2025, The Art Insider, US
Co-host Exhibition Live | Jichi Zhang, 27 Jul 2025, Absent Gallery, CN
Barely There | Jichi Zhang, 16 Jul 2025, Three Zeros Art, CN
The Art of Almost: Jichi Zhang's Fragile Gestures, 7 Jul 2025, Artist Weekly, US
Jichi Zhang: The Poetics of Ephemerality, 23 Jun 2025, Visual Art Journal, NL
Transparent Resistance: Zhang Jichi's Artistic Language and Media Poetics, 4 Jun 2025, Artron, CN
States of presence and disappearance: The poetics of Jichi Zhang, 3 Jun 2025, FAD Magazine, UK
The Quiet Resistance Of Jichi Zhang's Art, 23 May 2025, Our Culture Mag, UK
Jichi Zhang's quiet revolution: Challenging permanence in contemporary art, 21 May 2025, Art Daily, US
On the Cloud! See the world through Gen Z artists, 23 Aug 2024, Guangzhou Tianzhi Culture, CN
There is a border of cloud, but no border to their practice, 21 Aug 2024, Suzhou Art Magazine, CN

Artist talks

2024

Visiting Guest Artist, Between Presence and Absence: The Aesthetics of Non-Presentation in Space, Liaoning University, Shenyang, CN

2023

A B S E N T G A L L E R Y

Visiting Guest Artist, Contemporary Expressions and Material Ethics, Liaoning University,
Shenyang, CN

2021

Artist talk, Art and Environment, VO Art Union, Shenzhen, CN