

Jichi Zhang

My practice works with materials that are designed to remain temporary—protective membranes, architectural coverings, and industrial films that exist to stabilise, isolate, and prevent exposure. Rather than treating these materials as neutral supports or discarded remnants, I work with the moment in which their intended function begins to lose authority.

These materials are not transformed into new forms; instead, they are allowed to continue “performing” protection under conditions where protection can no longer be completed. Through tension, suspension, airflow, and gravity, the works remain structurally active but materially unreliable. What emerges is not an object, but a system that occupies a prolonged state of becoming—neither intact nor collapsed.

I am interested in how transparency fails as a tool for clarity. When protection becomes visible, it does not necessarily reveal what it was meant to safeguard. Excessive transparency can generate hesitation rather than understanding. The works operate simultaneously as barrier and remainder, appearing to persist in their task while demonstrating that the logic of protection has already broken down.

Space and time are not contexts for the work but active constraints within it. The materials are often positioned between wall and air, resisting a clear reading as either surface or volume. Changes introduced through reinstallation, material fatigue, and deformation are not treated as damage but as structural continuations of the work’s conditions.

Rather than using fragility as an expressive metaphor, I treat it as a factual property—something that can be installed, displaced, and re-encountered. The work asks whether meaning becomes more precise when structure begins to yield, and whether instability can function not as a failure to be corrected, but as the condition that allows the work to remain legible at all.



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