

Artist Statement

Junxuan Fan

I am Junxuan Fan, born in Shanghai and currently based in Chicago. Growing up between these two cities has shaped my understanding of urban life, while also leaving me uncertain about what it means to belong in modernity.

Cities are often described as spaces where cultures merge into a shared identity. In my experience, this sense of belonging is not always present. Instead, I am drawn to moments of isolation, transition, and waiting—states that exist quietly beneath the surface of urban life.

My work focuses on spaces between construction and deconstruction: These spaces hold traces of human activity, yet feel suspended in time. They reflect both chaos and fragility—conditions that define the contemporary urban experience.

Through photography and text, I explore memory and emotional distance within these environments. I am interested in how cities shape, and sometimes disconnect, the individuals within them. My work is a personal attempt to understand how one navigates identity, time, and belonging within constantly changing urban landscapes.