

**Jiajia Zhang:** *Duty Free*

25.04.2025 – 21.06.2025

*When I was about seven years old, I traveled alone in an airplane to Switzerland to join my parents. For two years prior, I stayed with my grandparents in China. I didn't talk to my parents during this time, and when I saw them again at the airport, they were basically strangers. Once I got to Switzerland, I remember being alone for the first time in my life, since they were both working or attending language classes during the day. I remember hosting my own radio show that my parents titled 'Langweilig Jiajia alone at home' after the then-popular film 'Home Alone'. During my recent trip to China, I realized again how common this model is. The kids stay with the grandparents in their hometown while the parents move to the city for work. Every taxidriver, manicurist, masseuse, server, karaoke operator, baker, construction worker etc. can tell you something about it.*

*Duty Free* is a site-specific exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Jiajia Zhang. Using installation, sculpture, found objects, sound, vinyl window coverings and text the artist stages a strange and temporary storage space. A place for discarded goods and wholesale products, found furniture and altered objects, past memories and future predictions. Fragments of music and voices speaking in different accents can be heard emanating from some of the objects scattered throughout the space. The voices read an incomplete inventory of mundane activities and daily chores. While the listed activities are both banal and specific, both busy and stagnant, the objects – which usually are traded, delivered, exchanged, discarded, or recycled – lie peacefully still, covered, uncovered, withstanding for a moment the erosion of time. Zhang asks questions about abandonment and entertainment, bureaucracy and care.

*What worlds are we collectively building by trading these fragments of selves?*

## List of Works:

*Door (Script)*, 2023/2025

Silver vinyl on entrance window and door  
Dimensions variable

Speaker playing music compilation (59:46)

### **Room one:**

*Congratulatory Circulation Box*, 2025

Three wallclock cardboard boxes, stickers  
44 x 44 x 4.5 cm each

*Punctuated Camouflage Box*, 2025

Cardboard box, hole  
15 x 15 x 21 cm

Stanley

Andy

Faye

*Prismatic Cumulation Box*, 2025

Delivery box, decorated fabric  
33 x 25 x 48 cm

*On a scale from 1 to 10, how much do you?*

Hosiery display, printed bow  
Dimensions variable

*Anticipatory In Between Box*, 2025

Two delivery boxes, scrunchies  
57 x 200 x 8 cm

*Gappers (At first, the primary purpose of the gap year was for countries to exchange cultural ideals in the hope of preventing future wars)*, 2025

Two baskets, beads, plastic pearls  
Dimensions variable

Teresa

*Spectral Memoration Box*, 2025

Delivery box, pink silk satin fabric  
100 x 50 x 60 cm

*Retired Confidentiality Box*, 2025

Cake box, tinesel  
45 x 14 x 46 cm

*A New Generation of Three*, 2025

Vinyl sticker  
Dimensions variable

*Empathetic Duration Box*, 2025

Pressure cooker, cardboard box, household vinyl paper  
34 x 34 x 29 cm

*Are You Waiting, Relaxing or Collapsing?* 2025

Various balloons on floor  
Dimensions variable

### **Room two:**

*Have we peaked yet?*, 2025

Cary, child suit, five fake rocks, speaker with sound piece (22:48), cookie, Coco, stool, clothes bag with clown costume.  
Dimensions variable

*23, Quai du Commerce 1080 Bruxelles*, 2025

Replication of found plaque, gold vinyl on window and door  
Dimensions variable