WANCI JIANG

“Grand stories are not important; it is the seemingly unremarkable knowledge that matters.” — Experts of the Everyday: The Theatre of Rimini Protokoll
Wanci Jiang (b. 1997, Taiwan) is an artist and writer based in the Hague. In Taiwan, she was originally researching other people’s diaspora. In 2024, she moved to the Netherlands because of her marriage and her focus shifted toward her own migration—through participatory observation of everyday life, with the body of an immigrant and a wife. She uses performance as a research method to find the alternatives among the struggles and paradoxes of a migrant body. She turns these moments into intriguing propositions—by posing questions such as, “How can I wear a mask without wearing a mask?”, or recognizing that the first time she felt embarrassed carrying a heavy green “Amazing Oriental” plastic bag was the moment she became an immigrant. Combining Anthropological and artistic thinkings—She believes everyone is the expert of their personality and experience. For example, she perceives that even selfish people are the experts of selfishness. People who are too tender and often treated badly by others, we can learn from selfish people about how they protect themselves.

EDUCATION

2024 - 2026 Master of Fine Art Utrecht, HKU faculteit Kunst en Vormgeving diploma

2018 - 2021 Bachelor of Science in Ethnology National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taiwan diploma

2015 - 2016 Bachelor’s Programme in Radio, Television and Film (Division of Film) Shih Hsin University, Taiwan

EXHIBITIONS

2026 Catching Light Vermont Studio Center Johnson, United States Group exhibition with works by artists and writers in residence. Group

2026 Graduation show Master of Fine Art HKU Bak Basecamp Utrecht, Netherlands Graduation exhibition presenting the work of graduating artists from the Master of Fine Art programme at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht. www.bakonline.org/en/basecamp/agenda/graduation+show+master+of- Group

2025 as if mistake become a place AG gallery Utrecht, Netherlands An exhibition and collective library by the students of HKU Master of Fine Art. ag.hku.nl/tentoonstelling/as-if-mistake-becomes-a-place/ Group

PROJECTS

2026 Bad mother-in-law spirits The Hague, Netherlands My mother always asks me questions. She used to ask why I didn’t have a boyfriend. When I finally got married, I thought her expectations would end. But just before I left for the Netherlands to live with my husband, she told me, “You must listen to your mother-in-law in everything, understand?” On my way to catch the flight, I felt something inside me spiraling downward. That was when depression began to stay with me. Later, I wondered if it wasn’t just depression, but a “bad mother-in-law spirit” living with me—one of the native ghosts and spirits inhabiting immigrants’ houses and kitchens, watching and judging me. If bad mother-in-law spirits really exist, who are they? What do they look like? What do they eat? Do they sing songs?

2024 Boundary challenge Leiden, Netherlands In September 2024, during my first week at art school, I experienced culture shock. I socialized too much and realized others could easily refuse drinking or unwanted requests, while I could not. This led me to start the Boundary Challenge. I treat setting boundaries as an experiment and an artistic project, practicing small exercises and writing reflections. I keep asking myself: if I speak out my disagreement now, what will happen?

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2026 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson (VT), USA, Residency Johnson, United States Selected for a residency at Vermont Studio Center with a fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan. vermontstudiocenter.org/

COMMISSIONS

2026 The living map: Taipei Main Station Indonesian migrant workers’ community Japan Foundation Taipei, Taiwan (Ongoing) This is a living map that Google map cannot see. In Taiwan Taipei Main station, there’s a unseen living map. For Indonesian migrant workers, the negotiators of this map, they named every spots in Taipei Main Station with their own logical way. The names and the spots, they are not the straight words that the Google map or station’s map clearly mark, instead, each place within the station is known by phrases like “next to something,” “across from something,” or “within a certain area.”These are spaces defined by a bodily

PUBLICATIONS

2022 Why Are Migrant Workers Always Live-streaming? Book Muma Culture Wanci Jiang New Taipei city, Taiwan booksfromtaiwan.moc.gov.tw/books_info.php?id=600 In 2015, I moved from Guanmiao, Tainan to Taipei. In the solitude of living in a different place, I got to know a group of Indonesian migrant workers in Taipei. “Why Are Migrant Workers Always Live-Streaming” depicts the years from 2015 to 2022, during which, within the Indonesian migrant workers’ community in Taiwan, I became friends with Indonesians. We spent holidays together, and I also had a chance to observe the general lifestyle of their lives in Taiwan. I discovered that the reason many Indonesian migrant workers come to

sense—how migrant workers experience them physically. As they continue to interact with these places, they gradually shape what we can call the "Taipei Main Station migrant community." A community is always in flux; places carry their histories and their futures. care.jpf.go.jp/en/

Taiwan is not always as simple as "wanting to earn money." After getting to know a reporter named Indri for four years, she told me that many Indonesians come to Taiwan as migrant workers because they were all running away from something. For instance, they may be escaping from a relationship filled with setbacks, a painful marriage, or failures in their hometown. The journey of life in Taiwan becomes a crossroads for them. I also found a unique community phenomenon among Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan: they really enjoy using mobile phones for live streaming.

REVIEWS

2023 / Handing the microphone to migrant workers, we hear completely different stories - Reading Why Are Migrant Workers Always Live Streaming Website Wu Xiaole Taipei, Taiwan okapi.books.com.tw/article/16591 This is a review of my book written by Taiwanese writer Wu Xiaole and published on an online book review platform OKAPI.

2023 / Riding modified motorcycles, singing in Taiwanese, participating in welcoming deities – the aspects of migrant workers you may not know - Reading Why Are Migrant Workers Always Live Streaming Website Wan Jinyou Taipei, Taiwan okapi.books.com.tw/article/16538 This is a review of my book written by Taiwanese writer Wan Jinyou and published on an online book review platform OKAPI.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2026 Kunstvlaai HKU Wild Card award kunstvlaai Utrecht, Netherlands Nominated by HKU and selected by Kunstvlaai as a Wild Card recipient.

2024 NL Scholarship Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science together with Dutch research universities and universities of applied sciences, Utrecht, Netherlands Recipient of the NL Scholarship for pursuing the Master of Fine Art programme at HKU University of the Arts Utrecht.

2023 Grant, Overseas Arts Travel. National Culture and Arts Foundation Taipei, Taiwan It was a oversea travel grant project about exploring Indo-European and Indonesian communities in the Netherlands.

2023 Grant, Writing Taiwan. National Culture and Arts Foundation Taipei, Taiwan A grant supporting my writing on the everyday lives of Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan and Taiwanese immigrants abroad.

2023 Winner-Golden Tripod Awards for Publication (National Book Award of Taiwan) National Ministry of Culture Taipei, Taiwan A Taiwanese national literary award received for my first published book, Why Are Migrant Workers Always Livestreaming?

2023 Winner- Readmoo Annual Awards (non-fiction) Top 10 Writers Readmoo Taipei, Taiwan Selected as one of the Top 10 non-fiction writers of the year by Readmoo, a major digital reading platform in Taiwan.

2023 Taiwan Literature Golden Award Nominee National Museum of Taiwan Literature Tainan, Taiwan Nominated for the Taiwan Literature Golden Award for my first published book, Why Are Migrant Workers Always Livestreaming?

2022 Winner- Openbook Award Openbook Award Taipei, Taiwan Awarded the Openbook Award for my first published book, Why Are Migrant Workers Always Livestreaming?

2021 Grant- Literature Grants National Culture and Arts Foundation Taipei, Taiwan A literature grant supporting the writing and publication of my first book, Why Are Migrant Workers Always Livestreaming?

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2024 - 2024 Workshop - ""Me meme on Dutch wife", Casco, Utrecht, NL

2023 - 2023 Lecture-Limestone Bookstore, NL

2023 - 2023 Lecture – "Taiwanese-Indonesian Migrant Worker Community: Understanding the Reality", Department of Sociology, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan

2023 - 2023 Conference Presentation – "My Taiwanese Boyfriend: New Choices in Love for Indonesian Migrant Women", 2023 Women's Studies Annual Conference, Taiwan

2023 - 2023 Book Talk – Southeast Asian Studies New Book

Discussion, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

2023 - 2023 Lecture – “Taiwanese-Indonesian Migrant Worker Community”, National Chi Nan University, Nantou, Taiwan

2023 - 2023 Lecture – Taipei International Book Exhibition: Off-site Lecture, SuSu Second-Hand Bookstore, Taitung, Taiwan



Bad mother-in-law spirits, 2026
Interactive sound installation, masks, objects, Variable dimensions



If I wear a mask, 2025
7'37"



My Dad had an England Castle, 2025
Photobook dummy, single-channel video, Photobook: 14.8 × 21 cm; video duration: 12'21"



Garangan, 2025
Participatory art project, research, To be determined



If our routes toward hope are full of doggy's shit, 2025
Performance, Duration: 15min



Living Map of Taipei Main Station, 2025
Web-based work, illustration, text, Variable dimensions



Boundary challenge - kindergarten pain, 2024
Performance, Duration: 20 min



Me Meme on Dutch Wife, 2024
Research-based participatory workshop, Duration: 3 hours



Boundary challenge - a letter to the past self, 2024
Walking performance, letter, writing, Duration: 8 hours



Why Are Migrant Workers Always Livestreaming, 2022
Publication, 14.8 × 21 cm