



At WEATHERPROOF, tear down the wall—the Albany Park gallery reimagines what it means to be a Chicagoan artist-run space

Weatherproof is in a lineage of Chicago galleries founded in people's apartments—in this case, a "hole" in artist Milo Christie's Logan Square home. Christie began curating small exhibitions at this first iteration of Weatherproof, named for the plexiglass shield protecting the shows, before opening a larger space in Albany Park in 2022 and partnering with Sam Dybeck in late 2023. The two met while working at LVL3 in Wicker Park and came together after realizing their "Venn diagrams of interest" had significant overlap, evinced by their consistent and well-curated program of installation, sculpture, and new media presentations.

When we speak in January, Christie and Dybeck highlight the importance of maintaining a non-hierarchical approach to planning shows, focusing first on their relationship with the exhibiting artist, considering how

the private space of the studio relates to the public space of the gallery, and understanding how they could best utilize the gallery space—an ethos derived from their own experiences as artists. It's all done in a very tongue-in-cheek manner, which can be felt in both their self-description to me as "Cointelpro" (the name of a series of illegal FBI operations) and their insistence on extravagant take-home ephemera for each show, such as the scratch-off lotto tickets made for "Auto Dealer Dream" (2024), with Andrew Harding and Yan Wen Chang. To some, they might seem overly trusting of their artists; for the 2023 exhibition, "documentum," Craig Jun Li tore up part of the gallery's carpets. But they don't seem to mind: Christie and Dybeck were planning to remove them anyway, they tell me with cheeky grins.