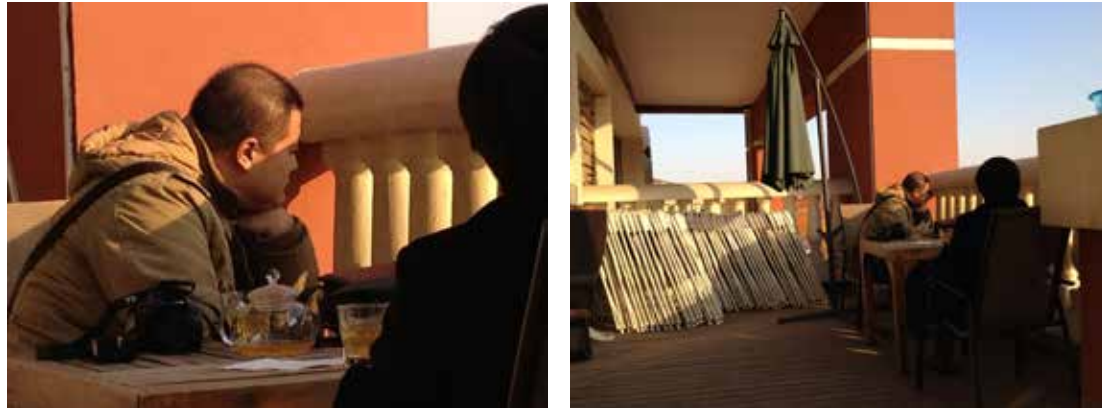


SURVEILLANCE

Ai Weiwei

Over the years, Ai Weiwei has taken thousands of photos of his daily life as a dissident, as a monitored individual and assembled a large archive of images documenting surveillance. The following three spreads show the various conditions of surveillance the artist has been under since 2009, up to the time of his trip to Europe in summer 2015. The spreads comprise images of the artist surveilling the secret police; footage retrieved by him from a memory card belonging to the camera of an agent who had been surveilling him and others; and stills from weiweicam.com, of Ai surveilling himself.

Chaoyang Park Book Store, Beijing, December 11, 2011. Surveillance from the second-floor balcony of a bookstore



as Ai Weiwei walks with his son.



Bifengtang Restaurant, Beijing, July 28, 2011. Surveillance as Ai Weiwei has dinner with friends.



Lido Hotel Thai Restaurant, Beijing, December 1, 2012. Surveillance as Ai Weiwei has dinner with NYU law professor



Jerome A. Cohen and Chinese lawyers Pu Zhiqiang and Liu Xiaoyuan.



Ai Weiwei has a large archive of photographs capturing police surveillance following his release from detention in 2011. "The images are casual and the people in them look quite ordinary, but they reflect the state's 'stability maintenance' programs, which have a bigger annual budget than the military." The police follow Ai everywhere, from the park to restaurants to hotel lobbies. Over the years, he has recorded thousands of photographs of his daily life as a dissident, as a monitored individual.

KFC, Beijing, May 2012. Photos tracking students outside a KFC in Beijing on the first anniversary of the Jasmine



Revolution.



Ding Tai Feng Restaurant, Beijing, May 2012. Photos of a Ding Tai Feng restaurant where Weiwei regularly ate



dinner with friends and family.



Chaoyang Park, Beijing, May 2012. Photos of Ai Weiwei's son's stroller and his driver, Xiao Pang, in park where he



walked daily with his son.



In May 2012, while walking with his son in Chaoyang Park in Beijing, Ai realized he was being followed and photographed by the secret police. In retaliation, he confronted the policeman and took the memory card from the man's camera. Below is a selection of the photographs Ai found on the memory card.

258 Caochangdi. Beijing, April 3, 2012. In front of Ai Weiwei's desk



258 Caochangdi, Beijing, April 3, 2012. Above Ai Weiwei's desk



258 Caochangdi, Beijing, April 3, 2012. Above Ai Weiwei's bed



On April 3, 2012, the first anniversary of his detention by Chinese officials, Ai set up four video cameras in his house as a personal extension of the constant surveillance he has experienced since his release. The four cameras sent a twenty-four-hour live feed to the website weiweicam.com. Forty-six hours after the site went live, the authorities instructed him to shut it down. During those forty-six hours, the site received 5.2 million views.

From the time he was born, my son Ai Lao has also been under surveillance. When I came out of detention, I realized his name, his mom's phone number, and his address, which only the authorities had access to, had all been exposed at the airport. And of course wherever we go, the park, a restaurant, we always have to be alert. He experienced this. When we went to a rock concert, he would see the cars following us in the rear-view mirror. We have to face undercover police and constant surveillance. So for his generation, really from the time of his birth, it has become a natural environment to be under surveillance.

—Ai Weiwei, July 22, 2015