

Min Oh | The Suite – [concept September 26]

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to open this exciting and wonderful exhibition *The Suite* by the South-Korean artist Min Oh. Oh is currently an artist-in-residence at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam, showing here a new series of video work and the performance *Suite*.

The fact that this exhibition is held at the Bank cannot be seen as a coincidence; the Bank has a long tradition in both showing and acquiring new work by promising Amsterdam-based artists. Therefore, the Bank supports the arts in the most generous way, and its curators have an artistic vision that exceeds the borders of this white gallery space within the larger and more sheltered space of the Bank.

Min Oh, both educated in piano performing and graphic design, composes short visual narratives that seem harmonious on the surface, but are in fact the opposite. The videos *Birds*, *Mother* and *Banana* depict playful children, vibrating cups and even a screaming banana. But past the formal qualities of these works – such as the serene scenery and beautiful composition of objects – her videos are difficult to look at. It is because the objects in these remarkable composed and detailed narratives have real character: they move, perform, and are noisy. Or, to say it differently, objects in Oh's videos have an essence, which makes it tempting to engage with the sort of larger chronicle Oh is addressing.

The work that Oh is showing in this space, is to me very much about different ways of approaching and unfolding memories through the medium of art, music and dance. Some of these memories came a long way – as in her video *Daughter* that is a recollection of her early childhood; others, such as the performance we will enjoy this afternoon, centres around the idea of remembrance of gestures, of bodily movements.

Oh's performance and performance objects are shown in conjunction with her work in the medium of video. This gallery space therefore has a very stage-like character, where different works refer to different scenes, or moments in time. *The Suite* might be understood as one installation or work, where the meaning of both things and movement is researched and challenged.

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