

[Bijlschrift foto:] Still from The Suite, video performance by Min Oh

Breathtaking perfection in Min Oh's films

Min Oh, The Suite

Exhibition room of De Nederlandsche Bank, Westeinde 1, Amsterdam Viewings by appointment only, via phone no. 020-5242183. Identification required. Until 25 October

Min Oh was one of the most striking participants in the latest Open Days of the Amsterdam Rijksakademie. Korean artist Min Oh was accepted as a Rijksakademie student relatively late in life, at 37. Before that, she was trained as a performing pianist and studied graphic design at Yale University. To call Oh's work precise is an understatement. Everything in her videos, including the new performance she now shows in the exhibition room of De Nederlandsche Bank in Amsterdam, has been planned and plotted down to the last square millimetre. Every second of every image is of an astounding beauty. Who would have thought that an earthenware teacup could be so radiant, or imagined that a pale blue blouse on a white skirt could be so exquisitely sexy? Even the exhibition room surrounding the video works has been overhauled meticulously by the artist.

The screens the films are beamed onto have received not four but five coats of white paint. Small, brilliantly white stools are arranged in rigid order. And the dancer in the latest work *The Suite*, strenuously stretching her leg as she picks her way in slow motion across an imaginary obstacle course, is jealously watched by the artist. Oh's work is of such perfectionism as to almost take your breath away. How much beauty can one endure? Yet fortunately, beauty is not all Min Oh's work is about. As in the movie *A Single Man* – the painstakingly stylised directing debut of fashion designer Tom Ford (2009) – there is something heartrending lurking in the depths of Min Oh's work. The blond nymphet in the four-minute film *Daughter* (2011), wandering around a universe of paper cuttings, rattling cups, saucers and a toy that is a simple rubber band, has a dark wisp hovering at the back of her eyes. *Daughter* is a fairy tale about loneliness and how to control loneliness in a world where there is always someone watching. And that is way beyond mere beauty.

Lucette ter Borg