

Ode de Kort

Suspension of a circle - Curated by Wim Waelput

12 March – 30 April 2016

Opening Saturday 12 March 2016, 14-18h

The work of Ode de Kort is the result of a continuous search for the boundaries of the photographic medium. She brings photographs in contact with fragile sculptural interventions, thereby feeling out the spatial potential of photography. This is enhanced by the meticulous and site-specific integration of these images in the exhibition space. The interaction between sculpture and photography is expressed in a series of works in which specific supports were designed in the form of subtle steel structures. Photographic prints balance upon these structures. Their austere shapes, which remind us of the cool and rigid typologies of modernism, form a contrast the amorphous shapes of the depicted landscapes. This interaction is even more explicit in her series of photographic registrations of stacked, unpretentious, commonplace materials such as strips of wood, paper and stones. Sometimes similar assemblages are included in the exhibition as spatial structures. Consequently, her work doesn't only occupy the area of tension between flat, two-dimensional images and the tactile, physical form, it also investigates the intersection between the static form and agile aspects in the image. The objects, in a fragile balance, represent a frozen moment in time; their condition is precarious because they appear to be ready to fall at any moment.

Ode de Kort realised the concise film *Suspension of a Circle* for the *Window Project* at Hopstreet Gallery. In this film we see how a circular object is manipulated and transformed with a wooden stick; as a result it is in movement and it takes on a constantly changing shape. The artist is exceptionally fascinated by the spherical shape and she frequently uses it as a motif in her work. The circle can only be considered perfect in its mathematical form; in the real, perceptible world a perfect circle is not to be found. In Platonic thinking, the circle prevails as an example of the perfect shape that is only found in a different world, the *World of Ideas*. 'Earthly objects' are only a reflection of this other world. Through her work, de Kort seems to give metaphoric expression to the continuous, mimetic process that connects the perpetual (Platonic) *World of Ideas* with the ephemeral, physical world. On the other hand, we also recognise the poetic imagination of a cyclic and infinite process in the dancing, round shape. Even though de Kort's works mainly acquire meaning through their pure material presence, they also reveal a complex, immaterial, inner world.

Ode de Kort (b. 1992) lives and works in Antwerp. She earned a Master's degree in photography from KASK – School of Arts Ghent. She recently had solo exhibitions in Tique Gallery, Antwerp; SpazioA, Pistoia and Galerie OMS Pradhan, Brussels. She also recently participated in group exhibitions in Extra City Kunsthall, Antwerp and Fondazione Antonio Ratti, Como.

Wim Waelput is director and curator of KIOSK, a space for contemporary visual art in Ghent that is affiliated with the KASK – School of Arts.