

The gallery is opened Wednesday through
Saturday, 1 – 6 PM, and by appointment

Woo Jin Lee

Longing – Recent paintings

21 January – 20 February 2012

Big contradictions in the world like innocence versus perversity, beauty versus evil, love versus violence apparently coexist harmoniously in the work of Woo Jin Lee. In sweet colours she paints the most atrocious scenes. In her sadomasochistic universe both offenders and victims seem to be perfectly happy in their roles. In the course of time in her work human figures have been replaced by teddy bears. Her slightly macabre, dramatic imagery finds its inspiration in the tragedies of Euripides and Sophokles, the visual art of Renaissance and the operas of Wagner, Verdi and Puccini. Although there is also the component of popular culture (fairy tales, comics), Lee's painting is far removed from the anecdotal. She wants to show enlarged emotions rather than tell little stories. Painterly aspects are at least as important to her as representation. Her work has a specific cartoon-like quality in which the figures show a growing tendency of dissolving into sheer lines and patches of colour. Lee's interest in matter -paint!- lifts the works to a higher level than the merely narrative.

Woo Jin Lee was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 1980. Actually predestined for a career in classical music as a violinist, around her twentieth she chose instead to study visual arts at Ewha University, Seoul. From 2005 she pursued these studies at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe, Germany. Towards the end of 2010 Galerie Onrust showed works by Lee in a group exhibition with (former) students of this academy.

The gallery will be closed during Art Rotterdam 9-12 February.



Untitled, 2011
acrylic on canvas, 180 x 200 cm



Untitled, 2011
acrylic on canvas, 200 x 260 cm