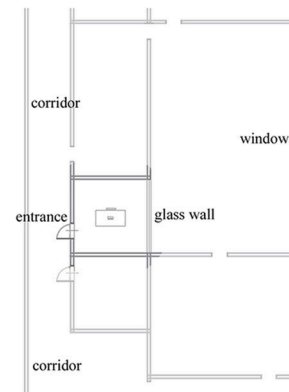




(Open Letter)

2003

installation (imprinted letter, 17th century Dutch style furniture, Plexiglass, rope)
Amsterdam, the Netherlands



Living in a canal house in central Amsterdam, its massive windows allowed me to enjoy the trees and the sunshine, while I felt as if my domestic life is on stage, especially when lit up in the evening.

I project my view on the structure and mentality of the society in Amsterdam to an uncurtained windows, referring to the paintings by Vermeer and Calvinism.

DIPLMACY BY WINDOWS The traffic of gaze through the window as an inspiration, the installation deals with the delicate diplomacy between private and public. A letter, a motif in Dutch paintings of the golden age and a means of communication, turns personal experience of a single viewer into a performance for other audiences in the installation.

CHOREOGRAPHED TO PERFORM-PERCEIVE In a long corridor, a door says, "Only one person can enter at a time. Please open and read the letter." Assuming a personal encounter with an artwork behind the door, an audience enters into the room with 17th century Dutch style furniture and a white letter, where he/she is exposed to other audiences beyond a transparent wall.

On the other side, in another part of exhibition space, the public finds a person entering a room and opening a letter on the table behind a huge window. After some moment of confusion and struggle, he/she starts to sway his/her gaze from left to right on a sheet of white paper as if reading it.

PERSONAL LETTER TO THE PUBLIC The letter is addressed to "my dearest", reflecting on the relationship between the unnamed author and "you." Its contents is projectable to the personal life of the audience, feeling himself/herself as a designated recipient instead of reading someone else's letter. As a letterpress print from a photopolymer plate without ink, the sheet of white paper is readable only with the light from a certain angle, each embossed letters casting shadow. The title means a letter intended for publication, but also indicates the act of allowing access/vision to a letter.



(left page) an audience reading a letter (right page, chronologically) map of the exhibition space and its composition; imprinted letter on the table; installation view seen outside of the glass wall; an audience turned into a performer, and other audiences who are visible in the reflection on the glass

