



**Provocative and poetic:
on the connecting power of art as ritual**

Lisa Konno

November 2 - December 14, 2024

From the traditional Dutch carpet beater to the shape of Japanese combs used in traditional ceremonial hairstyles: in her work Lisa Konno (1992, JA/NL) plays with signs and symbols, material and immaterial forms and customs, rituals and myths from various cultures. Konno is a fashion designer, filmmaker and artist. Her work is characterized by the combination of activism, aesthetics and humor. Sustainability and cultural identity play a central role. Konno works on projects in which fashion is used to depict socially relevant topics, such as the question to what extent beauty standards are a liberating form of self-expression and when they degenerate into a form of oppression.

In the exhibition Konno presents the works *Apron Sculpture #5* (2023) and *Apron Tapestry #2* (2023). In these works, which are somewhere between clothing and sculpture, she combines Japanese porcelain with textiles. The shape of the carpet beater is prominent here and turns out to be not just a classic Dutch household helper. In Konno's works, the carpet beater knot literally has a connecting role and also seems to refer to the carpet beater ring that is given to a loved one in Suriname as a sign of connection. The ring would swipe everything bad from your path. In the summer of 2022, Lisa completed a residency in Arita (Japan). Konno, half Dutch and half Japanese, grew up and educated in the Netherlands. For her, the research in Arita was a study in which not only material was central, but also questions surrounding identity as a concept.

The title of Konno's third work, *Mirror Selfie-Webcams*, 2023, gives away the effect of the round work that indeed hangs on the wall like a (hand) mirror. A beautiful white porcelain head - with a Mona Lisa-like smile - carries a wreath of black webcam cameras, surrounded by round decorations of porcelain, beads and wire. All those decorative elements are mounted on a super thin plate of dark wood, and the whole thing looks like a headdress as you see in traditional Dutch costumes. The work is an invitation that is as loving as it is subtle to look at yourself and the world differently. Konno's ultimate goal is to use fashion as a medium to tell relevant stories and inspire people. Lisa Konno dismantles history and literally redresses it: a liberating ritual.