Witte de With

FAXMESSAGE

Fax number	:	
Name organisation	:	RKS
Att. of	:	Martin v. Ginkel
Date	:	26/9
Number of pages including frontpage	:	2
Sender	:	Barbera

Martin,

Bijgaand een tekst, geschreven door Ken Lum, over het billboard-project. Wij hopen dat jouw sectie dit project kan ondersteunen.

Vriendelijke groet,

Barbera

Witte de With
center for contemporary art

Witte de Withstraat 50, 3012 BR Rotterdam, tel. (010) - 4110144, fax (010) - 411 79 24

Melly Shum Hates Her Job

In Melly Shum Hates Her Job, I wanted to make a work that expresses an all too common condition of modern life, the lack of fulfillment in the lives of too many people. Loneliness, alienation, anxiety, resignation and resentment are fellings inscribed at home and in a more public form within the work-place.

Melly Shum Hates Her Job is a picture of a young oriental woman in silent protest about her lot in life. The picture expresses her indignity, her feelings of insubordination to the prevailing order with all its entrenched biases and syste-matizations which have greater influence on people of visible minority and of women. The graphic character of the text declares her protesttion which is self-regulated and concealed in silence.

Melly Shum the sitter in the picture, is also a picture of my her. When I was very young I used to attend Chinese Language school after 'normal' school ended. After Chinese school, I would walk to the laundry factory that was very nearby and where my mother worked. She worked tirelessly, even finding moments to joke with her co-workers over the excessive din of the factory floor. At home one day, she looked so forlorned and quietly muttered to me how much she hated her job. She was very quiet in expressing this. I felt perhaps she might not want me to know or perhaps it was something she could do nothing about besides which I was too young to understand at the time.

Ken Lum, september 1990