

Jeanine Hofland
Contemporary Art

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Feiko Beckers
Making a birthday cake with my mother
30 May - 9 June 2011

Performance: Making sense of my horoscope
Friday 3 June, 5pm

As part of the 'Alongside' program of the gallery Feiko Beckers' video entitled *Making a birthday cake with my mother* will be on view for ten days in the front window of the gallery, and can be viewed from the outside only.

Feiko Beckers' artistic practice mainly consists out of live performances and videos, in which the artist reenacts trivial, but emotional charged moments from his personal life in a moreover staged and prearranged setting.

In the video *Making a birthday cake with my mother* the artist and his mother perform the act of making the artist's favourite family recipe, a mocha cake, in a fictional and two dimensional decor.

The performance calls to mind a dry and detailed cooking instruction video, wherein the act of executing the recipe is scrutinized and isolated from any nostalgic context. This seemingly awkward approach of re-telling emotional past events in a moreover strictly factual, obviously staged and serious manner, situates Beckers' performances in close connection to both Brechtian epic theatre and the more light-hearted genre of the slapstick. The artist is purposefully not aiming for the latter, but obviously can't avoid it when literately telling the truth to his audience.

It is in fact this failure the artist wants to address in his performances. The failure of losing credibility when consciously re-telling only the strictly necessary of private past events without including the emotional and nostalgic attached attitude.