

# Wetterling Gallery

## BIOGRAPHY

Marjolein Rothman's powerfully suggestive works are an inquiry into the nature of perception. Often fashioned in series, her portraits, and paintings of architectural monuments and buildings, are geometrically shaped, fragmentary, and rendered with minimal depth in a spare, sober palette. Devoid of the compositional detail that conventionally directs the viewer's interpretation, Rothman's portraits and scenes of people capture mood and feeling through posture or gesture. Evidence of her early training as a



Artist Portrait, Photo credit: Judith van Ijken

photographer, her images seem to loom out of and disappear into their ground, frozen in a state of becoming like photographs forming in a dark room. Her bleached-out paintings on canvas or aluminium, based on photos, comprise a series of rapid brushstrokes that are repeatedly wiped away and redone in her search for the image's essence, which often lends the works an ephemeral character as if they are present and not present at the same time. Recently her attention has turned to flowers, incorporating brighter colors in a profound engagement with painting itself and the tradition of the still life. Through a process of reduction and obfuscation, Rothman's images deconstruct the stability of historical truth, and invite viewers to explore the illusory aspects of knowledge itself.

Marjolein Rothman (b. 1974) studied at the AKI in Enschede, and was artist-in-residence at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, between 2003-2004. Rothman was awarded the Dutch Royal Prize for Painting in 2004. Her works have been exhibited at De Kunsthal Rotterdam, De Vleeshal Middelburg, De Nederlandsche Bank, Amsterdam. In 2023, Rothman had her first museum show at Villa Mondriaan in Winterswijk, accompanied by a publication (*Interval*, 2023). Since 2010, she is a Lecturer in Fine Art at HKU, Utrecht, and Painting at AKI Art EZ Enschede.