

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all here today on the occasion of the opening of Yim Jahyuk solo exhibition, *A Piece of Paper*. First of all, I would like to thank Mr Frank Taal, the renowned figure in the contemporary Dutch art scene, for inviting the distinguished professor and artist Yim Jahyuk to share her latest work with a Dutch audience in progressive Rotterdam. We are also indebted to the Dutch founders of the Mater Project-- Marleen van Wijngaarden and Peter Couwenbergh--and the Korean coordinator Yang Jungyoon, who all worked for five years to bring about this artist exchange programme between the Netherlands and Korea. It is their eighth project providing access to artistic developments in both countries. It is unique in being a voluntary undertaking to act as cultural brokers between two very different parts of the world. It is thanks to this kind of effort that Korea became the eleventh cultural destination for contemporary art activities, which number more than four hundred events in South Korea. This puts it on roughly the same level as Turkey, Russia, Italy and Japan.

As an ambassador in the Netherlands I really experienced so many impressive and unforgettable moments through art. At the same time, though, I longed to introduce the really excellent and attractive quality of Korean art, as can be seen today in Yim Jahyuk's presentation. This is because I believe that art is a vital medium for strengthening the ties between our two countries.

Yim Jahyuk was always the trailblazer for young Korean artists with a more international outlook. Her images are very familiar from daily life, but her treatment of them turns them into experiences that are far from everyday. She calls herself an image-fisher in a lake full of unexpected experiences, in which she fishes not with a rod and line but with pencil and paint. Lightness of touch rather than grandiose heavy emphasis, simplicity rather than complication, and only one or two layers instead of a thick structure. These characteristics of hers are perfectly embodied by the bare title of her show, *A Piece of Paper*.

I very much hope that you enjoy the exhibition.