

## Aspen Art Museum Audio Tape

I am Lily van der Stokker from Amsterdam and New York. I am making wallpaintings since 20 years. People know me from my wallpaintings about beauty and optimism. You can see those in the book in the bookstore called "Family and Friends". For the wallpainting that i designed for the Aspen Art Museum I did something different. The wallpainting has a text next to it asking or saying: Is it nice? Well I don't know. I wonder... maybe it is not so nice. What do you think? Art can be weird, right? I tell you what I did. Recently I started to make a new series of artworks in which I am trying to make ugly images. This wallpainting was supposed to be ugly. At the early stages of my design the text next to the wallpainting design was: "sorry, this is ugly". When I design what I do for example is that I take a drawing that was a failure and I put stickies on the parts where it went wrong. Then I recreate those failure parts and make it even worse. The funny thing is then the next day you are starting to like what you did and the ugly thing becomes beauty again. It's like an ugly little dog that you love.

So making ugly things is not so easy. When I was making the design for the Aspen Art Museum my desire to make a pleasing and neat artwork was stronger than showing a shameful ugly failure. So, it's complicated. And so I had to change the text into asking you if what I show you here is nice or not? I still don't know.

But not knowing is kind of a nice position to be in as an artist and breaking down your own rules too.

And the closet I put in because I like practical things, like a storage room. But I know it's totally useless here I agree.

Enjoy the show,

greetings from Lily