

Office Baroque is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of Junko Oki in Belgium at our downtown gallery on Bloemenhofplein 5 Place du Jardin aux Fleurs.

Junko Oki started her artistic practice in the year 2002 right before turning 40. Her work consists of embroidery on old fabrics, often several centuries old, collected by her late mother. The material used by Ms. Oki is referred to as *Boro*, a term that may include textiles from various origins, clothing, weavings used for candle making, tatami trimmings, as well as old bags.

Ms. Oki's textile compositions are rich and dense. They consist of abstract colored thread drawings implanted like vertiginous, spiraling memories into fabric. The contrast between old and new textile strata signifies an elegiac distance from past ways of living, yet her palimpsest approach can equally evoke proximity. Her aesthetics are shaped by childhood memories as well as a multitude of subliminal experiences. The repetitive manual labor of stitching and sewing, in the words of Oki, is propelled by two gravitational forces, love and death. Her work focuses primarily on human relationships, particularly those of her family and while exploring these themes, her work ranges out into automatist drawing, surrealism, poetry, art brut as well as feminist art. Oki is known for her two and three dimensional stitched and embroidered works on fabric as well as for a series of artist books.

Junko Oki is based in Kanagawa, Japan and had solo exhibitions at Dee's Hall, Tokyo and Morioka Shoten, Tokyo. Her work was recently exhibited at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa and Cookie Butcher, Antwerp. Her works are included in the permanent collection of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

[Performance of Mei Oki](#) during the opening of Junko Oki at Office Baroque.

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