

Image: Crop from *The Bookshop Piece* (1996) by Bik Van der Pol
in the context of *Sequins Cycle 4* (2023) curated by Shimmer,
Rotterdam

SHIMMER
www.shimmershimmer.org
Sat & Sun 14-18 h
Waalhaven Oostzijde 1,
3087 BM Rotterdam
The Netherlands

We swear we saw this.

Really,

This image originates from *The Bookshop Piece*, installed at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in 1996.

The image shows the backside of the artwork. Due to a technical mis-take, the right side is missing. However, the left side, possibly displaying a framed print or drawing, is still visible.

This drawing (or was it a print?) acts as an important 'annotation'. It depicts something closely related to *The Bookshop Piece*: the performativity of the creative energy of the everyday environment, both on display and in action.

We swear that what we saw, although only partially visible, was a depiction of a museum room designed by architect Ad van der Steur. We swear we saw a curator, seated at his desk, within his exhibition – the curator becoming a part of the show.

The drawing later returned to the museum's collection, but its whereabouts became unclear. This archival photograph of *The Bookshop Piece* initiated a search for this elusive print. Or drawing. To rediscover something, one must first acknowledge its existence. And you must know what to look for. But how? Then, just before Christmas, the museum's curator contacted us. He believed he might have found the print and sent us a copy by email. It shows the space exactly how we remembered it.

But the curator is missing. The desk is empty.

