

ABOUT MARTINE KWAKERNAAK (NETHERLANDS)

AN INTRO BY NELE HERZOG

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Martine came to Berlin in search of materials of any kind. She is a jewellery designer but also works as a design assistant sometimes. When attending Fashion Academy in Amsterdam, she had lots of fun designing little jewelry pieces to preview and accompany the textile pieces she created. She then took part in some Goldsmith courses to acquire basic smithing techniques like soldering, polishing or sawing.

Now her bracelets, chains and rings are sold in museum shops, galleries and pop up stores in multiple Dutch cities but also in some parts of Germany. Martine says that she does not take the creating process too literal, meaning that she does not connect her work to a special kind of inspiration before she figured out what the finished thing is going to look like. When working on a new piece she tries to focus on whatever material she chooses to be interesting at that time. The inspiration for forms and figures comes from the rough work itself. Describing her style, she uses the words sober and pure, at the moment she likes materials with raw textures. Because she mainly used leather, rubber and wool or the newest collection she created at the Büro für Bestimmte Dinge in Neukölln it also has a very natural appeal to it. Interestingly enough she mentioned that for her, Dutch design is typically clean, modest and particularly functional. This might reflect in her designs, but Martine would not want anyone to draw premature analogies from it.