

## Shunsuke Imai

### "float"

April 15 (Sat.) - May 14 (Sun). 2017

Reception for the artist April 15th 18:00 - 20:00

Tue. - Sat. 11:00 - 19:00 Sun. 12:00 - 17:00

(closed on Mon. and national holidays)



"untitled" 2017, acrylic on canvas, 162 x 180 cm

Opening Saturday, April 15th, 2017, Hagiwara Projects is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new works by Shunsuke Imai. This is his third solo exhibition at the gallery.

Based upon his reflection of the basic elements of painting - colors, shapes, and composition, Imai explores the possibilities of the flatness of the medium and the essence of the "act of seeing" through his painting.

Imai creates his painting by drawing part of a model prepared by folding or distorting printed images of randomly laid out stripe patterns produced by computer. A sense of strangeness generated through leveling a three-dimensional model into a plane surface coupled with a pictorial space in which colors and shapes are counterbalanced, invites viewers to an experience where their perception is sharpened while they are scanning to recognize what is happening within the rectangular form.

In recent years, he has been attempting to extend the possibilities of artistic expression beyond canvas by expanding the range of his activities through collaboration with a fashion brand, creation of large wall artwork by use of printing paper, and production of video artwork employing cloths, etc.

In this exhibition, by going back to his original starting point of flat painting, his new paintings will be exhibited. Imai's artwork, whose intense picture plane is enhanced by accurate, careful brushstrokes, brings a strong sense of flatness. It makes viewers aware of uncertainty of the act of seeing and brings them fresh illusions through finely selected colors while considering saturation and brightness, as well as the tension between balance and distortion in composition.

Shunsuke Imai was born in Fukui-prefecture, Japan in 1978. He graduated with a MA in the Fine Art Course, Department of Painting from the Musashino Art University in 2004. Selected exhibitions include "Perspective (I)" INTERMEDIATHEQUE (2017, Tokyo), "Open Theatre KAAT Totsuzen Museum 2016" KAAT Kanagawa Arts Theatre (2016, Kanagawa), "Through the Window - Contemporary Art in Kasugai" Kasugai City Library, Culture and Art Center, (2016, Aichi), "line & color" HAGIWARA PROJECTS (2015, Tokyo), "VOCA 2015 (Visions of Contemporary Art)" The Ueno Royal Museum (2015, Tokyo), "Shunsuke Imai, Kenjiruo Okazaki, Ōyama Enrico Isamu Letter" Takuro Someya Contemporary Art (2015, Tokyo), "the way of PAINTING" Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery (2014, Tokyo), "shiseido art egg vol.8 Shunsuke Imai 'range finder'" Shiseido Gallery (2014, Tokyo), "surface / volume" HAGIWARA PROJECTS (2013, Tokyo), "surface / volume" LOOP HOLE (2012, Tokyo), "SSS - expanding painting" MISAKO & ROSEN (2010, Tokyo).