

HAGIWARA PROJECTS

Shunsuke IMAI

surface / volume

March 9 - May 2, 2013

Reception for the Artist:

March 9, 2013 (sat) 18:00 - 20:00

HAGIWARA PROJECTS

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Thu. - Sat. 12:00-19:00

Tue. + Wed. by appointment only (Closed on Sun. Mon. and public holidays)



Shunsuke Imai, "untitled" 2012, 92 x 115 cm, acrylic on canvas

Imai develops works that explore the basic elements of painting: shape, color, and space. Previously, he has created works by taking flower patterns and pornographic images downloaded from the internet and rearranging them with vivid colors. In recent years, he has also been working on paintings that question single-layered surfaces with compositions that have been removed of iconography. Images composed with layers of color painted in acrylic may look like waves or flowing flags, but what is spread out before us is in fact just a flat picture, with no depth or space. His works cause the viewer's gaze to drift and stir the imagination, yet also lightly fend off any questioning of their meaning, therein producing a feeling of emptiness, like being left behind. What could possibly occur in a picture just coated with paint? Imai earnestly explores the fundamental meaning of what it is to "see" as well as the possibilities of the flat surface, and at the same time seems to question the emptiness and the meaning of the information that confronts us on a daily basis.

Artist Statement:

"A dazzling blaze of neon shines brightly as one walks the bawdy night streets of Tokyo; enter a shop selling fast fashion and one is drowned in a flood of chemical colors. I feel that there is no meaning in that accumulation of color, just a gigantic void.

My paintings are like that."

-- Imai Shunsuke

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. Exhibitions include "surface / volume" LOOP HOLE (Tokyo, 2012), "new piece" Remasta (Tokyo, 2011), "SSS - expanded painting" MISAKO & ROSEN (Tokyo, 2010), "emptiness" Yugishitsu (Toru Nakazaki + Mizuki Endo), (Mito, 2008), "Red" ZAIM (Yokohama, 2008), "CET04" INO-Building (Tokyo, 2004), "empty eyes" ZENSHI (Tokyo, 2007)