



Mitsuko Miwa "Imaginary Number" at Longhouse Projects, New York
November 30~2014



Longhouse Projects is very pleased to present Mitsuko Miwa's second solo exhibition at the gallery titled "Imaginary Number."

For this exhibition, Miwa debuts a new series of paintings and works on paper. The artist worked on each set of two paintings in parallel, creating what she calls "twins." The pairs will be separated and installed throughout all three rooms of the gallery. The distance between each "twin" intends

to effect the fundamental visual recognition of seeing two unique duplicates. The exhibition expounds principles found in Diane Arbus' *Identical Twins, Roselle, New Jersey* from 1967, which shows seven-year old sisters, dressed to match and standing in the same pose, close together. Superficially, they are identical yet the queerness of their individuality is what is so compelling. Each of Miwa's twins is painted by hand, on separate canvases or panels, in opposition to a mechanical or digital process. Calling to mind *Factum I* and *Factum II* by Robert Rauschenberg, Miwa's parallelism insists that our attention is drawn to the inflexible individuality of each half. For Miwa, this procedure acts as a negation of painting's status of supreme originality. She compares this negation to that of imaginary numbers which, when squared, equal negative one. Miwa sources content from fragments of photographs she stumbles upon, questioning their assumed reality. For example, old photos from someone's family album she found in a junk market in Berlin, the background of a portrait of Elizabeth Taylor she saw on Facebook, and unintentional shots taken on her camera. The subjects become accidental substance removed from their narrative. Containing text and other markers, she converts collateral, figurative, and phenomenal visual information into decontextualized pairs. The original image is thus neutralized and moved further away from any context, at once real and imaginary.

at Longhouse Project, New York
until 6 December 2014



Mitsuko Miwa "Imaginary Number" installation views at Longhouse Projects, New York, 2014
Courtesy: the artist and Longhouse Projects, New York.