

Maria Taniguchi

9 September – 4 November 2017

Ibid Gallery is pleased to present the debut Los Angeles solo exhibition by Maria Taniguchi. Best known for her brick paintings, Taniguchi's black architectonic canvases appear almost depthless: the assiduously painted bricks are sealed flat by its medium, combined to form an immense presence felt as both severe and slight. Concerned with the agency of painting as a conceptual apparatus in a constellation of work that includes video, installation, and sculpture, the brick paintings are an encapsulating device for Taniguchi's fundamental artistic problems and questions. To make her brick paintings, Taniguchi begins with a grey-painted ground upon which she carefully draws the lines between the bricks in graphite. After drawing the lines, Taniguchi paints each black brick individually, the bricks resisting the monochromatic with contrasting shades and sheens. The lingering footnote that Taniguchi paints the black bricks around the grey lines, and not the grey on black, remains a key aspect in her approach to painting.

The paintings, while consistent in being propped against the gallery wall, manage to be both turned "on" and "off" at the same time in their physical and aesthetic function. With image/object, figure/ground, and production/reception, the paintings hold a binary existence as two states of being in one entity. The sculptures, on the other hand, exist as binaries in two different forms – I's and O's, or 1's and 0's. The carved (not bent, again a seemingly important) objects appear as designed elements when singular, but when clustered together, signal a form of communication. The sculptures also shift across the binary of the black and white backgrounds provided by the gallery walls and paintings as the viewer passes by.

A constant in Taniguchi's practice is the viewer's agency to move, align, orient, look, and feel through her arrangements. Issues of scale, time, depth, and labor are all activated by the viewer's ability to create her own intellectual pleasure out of the rigorous landscapes set up by Taniguchi. People start to act differently in the presence of the installations as they begin sensing their own bodies against painted or carved registers. The paintings and sculptures activate the bodies within their vicinity as much as the viewing bodies activate Taniguchi's work.

Maria Taniguchi was born in 1981 in Dumaguete City, the Philippines. She currently is a part of the exhibition *Anarchéologie* at Centre Pompidou, Paris. Recent solo exhibitions this past year include Taka Ishii Gallery, Tokyo; Silverlens, Manila; carlier | gebauer, Berlin; and Ibid Gallery, London. She was the recipient of the 2015 Hugo Boss Asia Art Prize. Taniguchi lives and works in Manila.

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