

Naomi Reis
Mirror Room
March 8–April 7, 2019
Opening Reception: Sat., March 9th, 5:30–8 p.m.

**STANDARD
SPACE**

Mirror Room Resonates With Growing Movement at Sharon CT's Standard Space

(Feb 20, Sharon, CT) — Eighteen months after opening its doors, photographer Theo Coulombe's Standard Space Gallery celebrates its 13th show, Brooklyn-based mixed-media artist Naomi Reis' Mirror Room. The show arrives just as the gallery begins to cement its identity as a conduit coupling the undercurrent of creative energy "upstate" with the youth and dynamism of Brooklyn.

As a departure from Reis' previous work, Mirror Room is a collection of mixed-media paintings and colored-pencil drawings of spontaneous moments captured on her smartphone, reconfigured to create a deliberate and subjective sense of place and identity. The title comes from a Noh theater practice in which the actor sits before a full-length mirror in a hidden room behind a curtain, reflecting for a moment to select the mask of the character they'll inhabit for the audience. The shape they take on within this space in-between real life and stage lends form to their performance.

Similarly, the works of the exhibition are culled from brief moments of observation in-between life as it's lived: light shining through a faceted plastic shower curtain; shadows on pavement; a flower arrangement. The translation of photographic imagery into layered material serves to stretch time, transforming a brief moment of observation into a meditative act of manual labor, pulling open a space between the 3-D built environment and its flattened representation.

In the colored pencil compositions, what at first glance appear to be generic still-lives derive primarily from domestic corners of utopian architect Frank Lloyd Wright's home Taliesin West in Arizona. Rather than depicting exterior views of America's first global architect's iconic works, these focus instead on the interior: the current occupants of his house, namely, the plants, pots made by artisans from nearby pueblos, and imported Asian ceramics. Throughout, there is a sense of geographic restlessness, shifting from the Pacific Northwest, to upstate New York and Arizona, to the artist's hometown of Kyoto, Japan. The resulting work captures universal moments that feel placeless and timeless, a sliver of magic seen in the every day.

Born in Shiga, Japan, Naomi Reis has exhibited widely including at Youkobo Art Space in Tokyo, and Mixed Greens gallery, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and Wave Hill in New York. She is a 2018 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant recipient, as well as a 2015 NYFA Finalist in Painting. She received her BA from Hamilton College, and MFA from the University of Pennsylvania. She is also an artist-organizer and curator, formerly of Tiger Strikes Asteroid NY, and co-founder of the collective AN/OTHER NY, a nomadic workspace for emerging Asian art practitioners to learn with a group of peers through reading groups, workshops, and public events.

Mirror Room opens on Saturday, March 9th, 5:30pm at Standard Space, 147 Main St., Sharon CT. The show will run from Friday, March 8th to Sunday, April 7th, during gallery hours from Friday to Sunday, noon to 6pm, or by appointment.

STANDARD SPACE 147 Main Street, Sharon, CT 06069