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through public events

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C H E L S E A

For Immediate Release:

Naoko Ito

Holey Space

September 4 – 29, 2012

Opening Reception:

Thursday September 6th, 6-8pm



Copy one, 2012, pine, plexi-glass, hinges, 70 x 14 x 2.5 inches

SOHO20 Chelsea Gallery presents *Holey Space*, an exhibition by Naoko Ito. On view September 4 through September 29, 2012.

Ito's interest in art-making lie in those slippery places where one finds difficulty in distinguishing the manufactured from the organic. Her installation on view at SOHO20 "Counting Dollys" specifically examines the case of Dolly, the first cloned sheep. Through the use of exposed sculptural forms, images, audio and reflective surfaces, Ito's work deals with intersecting themes of nature, science, biotechnology and the moral responsibility that arises. Her pairing of these components creates a sense of natural artifice and easy duplicity.

Technological advances in everything from science and medicine to social networking, has perpetuated the not-so-slow development of "man and machine". Ito's sculpture takes a poetic approach to examining the coexistence of these elements, combining reflective plexi-glass of teal, blue and pink with raw pine and exposed hinges. The audio, composed specifically for the work, which lulls the viewer into a trance-like meditation is paired with images of sheep bounding across placid fields. The serenity Ito creates is a nod to the mental exercise of counting sheep, which relaxes and perhaps bores the practitioner through rhythmic, repetitive action into sleep.

Naoko Ito is a New York based Japanese artist working in sculpture, installation and video. She received a BA in Science of Design with a concentration in Museum Studies from Musashino Art University in Tokyo in 2001 and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 2010. Ito has exhibited in the U.S. at CAM-Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh, NC, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, NY, Ise Cultural Foundation, NY and Ozone Gallery in Tokyo, Japan among others. She has also participated in residency programs at Soho20 Chelsea Gallery, Chashama and Yaddo. Ito recently completed the Artist in the Marketplace program at the Bronx Museum of Arts and the LES Studio Program in Artists Alliance Inc. in New York.

For more information please contact the gallery at info@soho20gallery.com or 212.367.8994