

“Futago” Digital Print on Hahnemuehle Photo Rag 308 gsm (100% acid free cotton) .

Size : 210mm x 297mm

Andrea Innocent (a.k.a innocentgirl), 2006.

A popular television series. “Hajimete no
(a rough translation being ‘My first errand’)
follows the adventures of young children as
they embark on their first errand, alone.

In Japan, when children turn three or four they
are often sent on an errand by their parents to go
grocery shopping by themselves for the first time,
preparing them for the years ahead in which they
will have to walk to and from school everyday.

This, once being a rite of passage, is now less
common following the recent rise in kidnaps and
murders of young children in Japan.

The program itself is extremely elaborate, the
camera operators have cameras disguised in
briefcases, baskets, hats, etc and will follow these
children on their successful or unsuccessful
missions. Often children lose their way, buy the
wrong items, fall asleep, wander aimlessly while
talking to themselves or get side-tracked by other
more interesting adventures, such as playgrounds
or building snowmen.



The twins, ‘futago’ in Japanese, depicted in this work were the protagonists in one such episode of “Hajimete no otsukai”. The two little girls “*Shuna*” and “*Hina*” dressed the same, finished each others sentences and seemed even to walk in unison until one point at which they reached a fork in the road, one turned left, the other right and they then spent the next 30 mins arguing over which direction they both thought was the right way. They returned home crying, but after being consoled by their mother, they then set off again and returned victorious but with far too many cakes than were on their list.