

Restraint, Delicacy and ultimate of Chen Wenji

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Every people with clear idea in mind will come out their way of thinking in various stages while standing at the moment of transition, even it is easier make people have such expectation of everything can be all over again. As an artist, completing a creation period often has such same meaning. The way of Chen Wenji's artistic creation is legible; his art is an all along creative process of spanning the object's truthlikeness, continuing to in-depth purify the visual language. From his figurative realism during 80s and early 90s, to the description of desolate landscape in the late 90s, and then to the material abstraction after alienate from realism, even though it is a "Quiet Revolution" (quote from Li Xianting), but his art still has aliveness. He pauses for rest, clears up clutter, and calms the situation; all above was a prompt reorganization of his inner awareness and self-logicity. He said: "I won't get any joy from the completion of an artwork, I tend to get more caution while face them. Because I can see the excitement in future, find enough reasons to take new action. Life and living are an endless relay process, effective transfer and conversion going over and over, make me never stop. Forward moving is my excitement. I never turn back, therefore my living gets unlimited freshness, and my life then never ends."

May 13 to July 10, 2016, "Chen Wenji: Solo exhibition in Taipei" shows at Kuandu museum. As his first solo exhibition in Taiwan, it will be on view at the three exhibition galleries in KdMoFA, presenting the comprehensive oeuvre created by Chen between the years of 2009~2016, with 27 oil on canvas or oil on aluminum panel paintings. These simple and shaped works have a sense of purity that is detached of inner emotions, with his calm and meticulous mannerism incorporated and condensed, which is also a symbol of his moderate and exquisite artistic attitude, in order to cancelling out any so-called indicative significance related to the value or meaning of art, with the subject matters depicted in his artworks showcasing an obvious ambiguity. He successfully creates and builds a self-closed but endless extended horizon only for his own. The basic elements in order to structure image of an object, this is a major experiment that Chen Wenji spent long time to study on. Addicted to one thing for a long time might be his favorite way of working. During his creation, repeatedly extracting, creating, refining, until any symbols or metaphors were faded, in order to build his pure and precise illustration point and visual style.

Content of his works are based on his observation on objects and fragment thinking of artistic language. His works have pure image, which can be converted to the eye-contact with "static state". This conversion seems objective and abstractive, but actually it's subjective and realistic. Chen Wenji creates 3-D vision on 2-D panel, makes impact between drawing constitution and coloring gradation, makes intangible of materials absorbing with fuzzy existence, creates a kind of visual conversion which

comes from visual illusion of the relationship among object, structure, and order, then generates a visual effect that alienate image itself. "What I am doing now is to create a way of reading base on a false appearance. Human has watching habits, they used to believe it is real although it's fake actually, then according to the judgment, people have their own conclusion. These conclusions might be abstract, or might be specific, I can't tell." said by Chen Wenji. Apparently, making non-exist objects imply their existence by simple images, even providing a visual reverse; this could somehow refresh people's visual experiences, and then give out a new imagination space about visualization. This is not just about mutation diverseness of image; it's about an interpretation of intuitive perception in reality, and his position and attitude of art and life.

Perhaps he found a natural state and mindset that suitable with his self-survival and instinct of work. Chen Wenji said:" What I have done was mostly not by my self-mind, it is hard to determine whether they were intended. Judging from the result of my works, the meanings what we found are - autistic, bigotry, boring, and negative; fragmented and incoherent; marginalize and faithless; involved but less focused; addicted but not durable. Everything above is a combination of defective behaviors. We can only conclude that: human civilization is supported by both positive and negative effect of human itself." Thus, it shows his bigotry to visual penetration from the uncertainty of objects, and by such artistic form to explore the energy of self-expression. Chen Wenji's artworks are difficult to be defined or classified in Chinese contemporary art, he volunteered to stay in marginalization, and guard his self-rebellion and self-doubt in his decision, which it is also a way of his recklessness - only a true artist can reach such ultimate.