

Pleasure from Struggle and Wander

Zhao Yang

2016, Beijing

Shattered things shattering in collapse, broken matters spanning from greater broke, the world fulfills with unspeakable secrets. Sheng Tianhong's artworks were born from struggles and frustrations, as numerous of remnants, waiting to be concatenated, like liquid in the flask, manic looking for fusion, like the old things with dust in attic, hiding and rotating in the worldly cover, waiting for recalling, looking for clues, poised energy generated from mind loop. He is such a bystander, calm in silence as nobody. Everyone has own specialized. For painting, undoubtedly he is a skillful hunter. Like the boundaries wantonly broke in the artworks, the difficulties less needed to understand, the ignorance and bias on narratives, the madness of hopeless misunderstanding, the missing statements, the gleamingly lines, the picture seems deserted but full of mysteries, wonderful sights just love to twists and turns the way of rendering, everything are covered by heavy fog. What we have is only waiting, waiting for chance, waiting for the moment of master fight. High level artworks contain joys of difficulties which couldn't be found by non-discerning people. Therefore, while watching, he lets the short stays in watching fragments and continuous hesitation collapse implicit as a kind of appearance. Concise descriptions drive to misleading; disingenuous humor makes people suddenly enlightened; the blocked thoughts become the most direct understanding. Flame burns to fullest, ash fascinated to nirvana, Tianhong is such an artist submerged in pleasure from struggle and wander. He uses jocosity to disturb my meditation, uses subtle humor easily walk on the edge of banter, like "witz" and "witzig" in German, which can translate as humor and humorous, as well as funny, happy, interesting, simply, and clumsy. It is a hidden pleasure; it derived from Chen Laolian, Jin Nong, and Giotto; it is a pleasure of civilian, which is opposite to royal court, pleasure from pain and seeks relief. This side is that side. Last year, Tianhong and I visited his university in Dusseldorf where Rhine passes through in front of the classroom's windows; a few jackdaws were circling beyond, sky was clean, a touch of warm colors fell from the clouds, it reminded people the forgotten things, as his works as well as himself.