

2011.6.21 ~ 7.15 CHUNG SO YOUNG GALLEY

Fairy Tale for Adult / Choi, Hyung-soon

He firstly digs a ground. He pours down all materials he has gathered into the hole, hardness it as a sculpture, and excavates it. Sculptor Lee calls this procedure 'excavation'. 'Excavation' has inevitable principles that can't be ignored. First, in order to throw away the force of habit affected by western education, the reversed way is inevitable. Second, it can fetch some deep elements of feeling that interconnection and an order can't create. Thus, third, a contemporary sculpture ought to be original that comes from our feeling not be mimic. The 'excavation' technique has last for the last 10 years so far. Someone says that Lee needs to come up with new technique. But without being able to see his transformation, they can't complain on it. Desertion can't be needed. This is not about untying the 'binding'. Rather, it is closer to the value that should be kept.

Lee inserts special stones gathered around his work site into his work. The stones shine all over from sculptors. It is not merely easy to insert stones into sculpture but furthermore through the excavation the stones amplify their natural color beyond our imagination. A culture shock he has been through and history put in nature fills up his life. Stones can be found in specific seashores. The stones embrace sea until they are found at the seaside. Recent works emphasize on 'color'. Even the broken roof tile contains various changes of color. From the flesh whitely covered to the blacked edge, the broken roof tile embraces the changes of a paint. When the tiles are inserted into an achromatic paint, they turn into the abundance of natural color. His recent works represent the disposition of painting. Especially, his technique expressing facial figure as line from his old style somewhat presents an aspect of painting but the color subtly embodied is the best ever. The color expression soaked like fresco is incomparable to any sculptures that paint a surface. It shines its color as if it faintly does in pastel and it boasts its dignity and grace within Korean traditional paintings. It also is obvious how effective those scattered stones show, compared to his old works. Regarding color and materials, a foil wire net, a can, for example, boast magnificence of its color and texture. The texture and color guide us to see contemporary art and Lee.

In order to create one form, it is needed so much of line and sketch. There is no room for any excrescence. After getting rid of all wastes and side branches, a core of the seeds reaches to us in this exhibition. It is not just suited for seriousness. Without any demanding, Lee provide a state of peace through his works. As Monariza seems more beautiful without her eye brows, brush hair that does not cover a face shows the reason why it is beautiful through its form. We can call it a beauty of simplicity. It keeps the Korean aesthetics but moreover it goes along with advanced refreshing touch.

What does contemporary sculpture know, miss and mean? How does the sculpture approach to audience in order to give any meaning? We can't but see genuine sculptor. Overwhelming focus of Décadence suspicion, inconvenience looking like Bohemian, unpredictable future, all these can be weapons of the artist instead of killing them. Thus, the genuine artists know what steps they need to take in the middle of turmoil. What is Lee's strength? He learned of water through soil. He admits that a beginning of sculpture comes from water. He still encloses the memory valley, which his father passed prior to him, in his works. The experience of Terracotta is to know of soil. Now he is about to learn of wind. Ocean, wave, and wind are combined in his work. In other words, he embraces a nature itself, formed by erosion and time rather than the artificial force. Water, fire, and wind, time and nature is consisted of his prime material. One more important note, it is the power to see. A foundation stone placed on nowhere can be a masterpiece to him. To see and put it into his work is his special ability. That is what makes him the artist.