



J K C T Joint East Asian Project

●Outline

The Western rationalism has had its time in the 20th century, however it is no longer deniable that the 21st century will focus on developing Asian countries, China in particular. We are at the end of the materialistic civilization developed through mass production and consumption flourished in the name of freedom. The new millennium now craves for harmonious changes in politics, economics, philosophy, science and religion. There still exist in the new century yet unknown complicated issues that might spread due to the consciousness deeply rooted in the conflicts and social problems such as discrimination and poverty experienced in the 20th century. Fortunately, however, I cannot help sensing the possibility that they will bring about the change in the sense of value that we will live on a global basis. It is the very concept of Joint East Asian Project that sowing seeds begins in order to create a dream era where human beings share true peace by caring for and about one another.

●The Significance of Art and the Responsibilities of Artists

Through the progress of profit, i.e. national, industrial and religious interests, in the 20th century human beings fully utilized their resources and acted accordingly. And our existence belongs to somewhere in this structure of interests, depending on where you are born and live. We live being subject to the informational manipulation such as reports, propagandas, etc. In other words, we live in a society where truth is hard to grasp. Artists, however, who belong to a group of people more sensitive and cannot readily adapt themselves to the establishment that hides genuine truth, own capabilities to express themselves that make the commonplace information doubtful which are usually taken for granted by the society. If one could say that the 20th century art developed as one that represented truth and gave suggestions for the future, the 21st century art is to be more in need by the society. The artists will acquire their indispensable positions in the society and accordingly their responsibilities will become heavier.

●The Importance of Creating Dialogues and Common Understanding through Art in East Asia

In the 21st century Asia a sense of developing value need be created. Such creation of common sense of value, regardless of nations and peoples, should eventually find answers to those problems unsolved by the Western

rationalism and lead to human interests which enable people to respect one another and live in harmony. I firmly believe that it is what the 21st century art should be and that is exactly an important role it should play. It should bear large fruits to create a common sense of value if and when sowing seeds is realized not only in one country of East Asia, but instead in the whole area despite the differences in geography, history, ethnic variety and diverse uniqueness (creation of art bloc) I also feel that with the economical development of Asia this sense of value will spread in the rest of the world so that peoples will find a new value of life different from the Western rationalism. This is the exact objective of the Joint East Asian Project.

●What is expected of the Japanese Art is “Independence”

Japan achieved such a phenomenal growth after the Second World War that 2 decades ago Japan became one of the richest countries in the world. The Japanese fine arts were supported by the economic growth and the hierarchic “Head Master/Apprentice” system unique to the “village community” and the structure of profit sharing were guarded. In such a “village community” unique to Japan neither unconventional expressions nor strong individualities were in demand. More important in the “Head Master/Apprentice” system was their personal relationship. One can safely say that the Japanese society as a whole was a less rigid socialist state and the world of arts was also based on the rule of seniority. Due to the information revolution, however, the national boundaries have been removed and with the globalization in progress, even in the “village communities” of Japan less severe changes can be observed. The most important keyword in our society is “independence” . No future will be assured for Japan unless each individual seriously considers his way of life, relations to the society and commitment to his work. What one needs there are self-assertion and dialogues. From now on the society will require more viable expressions and creativities of the artists. Among the various arts of Japan it is the fine arts, most regrettably, that are farthest behind as far as globalization is concerned. It is essential for those who aim to become artists to have a firm determination to depart from this rigid establishment. Also the vertical structure, i.e. “museums ? art institutes ? galleries ? mass medias” need be changed to a horizontal one. In short, “independence” is the most vital feature for the Japanese arts as a whole.

●Joint East Asian Project

The objective is not merely to have an exchange of art, but also to create common consciousness and sense of value of East Asia. It will not be completely achieved by a short-term economical logic. It is of great worth to develop this steadily step by step. To raise the curtain of this project, the Japanese and Korean Directors in Charge will choose one artist each in their respective countries who can express the common values of East Asia. The solo exhibitions will be held in both countries.

2010 Japanese/Korean Artist Exchange Exhibitions

April Kim Joong Sik (Tokyo)

May Sato Haruna (Seoul)

2011 Japanese/Korean/Chinese Artist Exchange Exhibitions

In the second event Japan, Korea and China will participate. The Director of each country will select an artist. The exhibition will tour the three countries.

2012 ~2015 East Asian Exchange Exhibitions

Taiwan will join the Exchange Exhibitions. Artists will be selected on a public application basis and the exhibition will tour the four countries

2018 A competition will be held for the East Asian Region.

The Project will be carried out according to the above-mentioned schedule and the artists who have been jointly fostered by the four East Asian countries involved, regardless of nationalities and ethnic groups, will grow further throughout East Asia and their influence will eventually bring itself face to face with that of the Western culture.

● Successful Joint East Asian Project

In order to achieve the goal it is most important to obtain the agreement and support of those who desire improved communities and better future. We count on the participation not only of those directly related to fine arts, but also researchers of human culture, sociology and natural science. We at our gallery will actively engage in organizing symposiums and discussions. Your kind understanding and participation would be highly appreciated.

Gallery Art Composition
Kazuhiro Seki, Director
Tokyo, November 19, 2009