

REVIEW FROM "PINE GARDEN"

I don't know what would happen when Edward Scissorhands waves his hands, in fact, he had cut out a strange animal garden. Bu Di also has the skills of Scissorhands, who has created an illusion with the brush in his hands, an illusion without an entrance or exit.

When Bu Di shaped the "Pine Garden", he started with details (why not?), gradually a few pieces of rocks appeared on the canvas, then, a few pieces of lotus leaves, scattered stone stairs, ambiguous bamboo, extraterrestrial crystals, and in the end, an enormous dandelion, no! In fact, that was a small pine... a garden with a small pine, slowly appeared on canvas as such.

An illusion may be wonderful, but it would disappear quietly, whereas the mirage on canvas would solidify. Bu Di's garden is quite mysterious and concrete at the same time. He uses various sizes of charcoal pen to contour the thin paint. They are mostly straight lines, crossing and overlapping each other, building into an interdependent structure. The artist, like an architect and a child playing blocks, is careful and audacious at the same time. The color used on the image is largely a transparent yellow, the pond in peacock blue, and only a few places where the crystals are painted in white. The artist is always shy in applying colors, afraid of disrupting the viewers' dreamscape. Bu Di's techniques are rather freestyle, difficult to figure out the origins. There are certain components of Klee (Bu Di often spoke to me about his interest in Klee's art catalogues since he was young, and began to be fascinated in the oeuvres of the masters), as well as components of Miro. That's right, Miro had also painted the garden. Bu Di's garden is more frigid compare to Miro's, as if they are the ruins of Ming Dynasty gardens. The garden of the literati may be roamed about, whereas one would feel lost before entering the gardens here, because there is no path but aimless growth: light bulbs grown out from the bamboos, pine branches consolidate to crystals, lotus flowers freezes before they blossom, and the pine branches caught the UFO...

Language does not suffice in portraying a good painting, and the eyes provide us with endless possibilities. Approaching one's body to the painting, you would discover one secret after another. If the painting is a tree, then every detail is the branches and leaves of the tree. Then, Bu Di would undertake the life of Edward Scissorhands again, cutting this enigmatic painting into various details, and frame them into this small catalogue.

Liu Ye, 2013