

SHIN SANGHO

Dreams and Variations

1991-2011

Shin Sangho is a remarkable artist in every aspect of his work. Having helped revive Korean ceramics, updating more or less traditional forms and materials with his own versions of Buncheong ware in the eighties and early nineties, he has changed his direction dramatically since then. After extensive travels abroad-to America, Europe and especially to Africa-he was inspired to commence work in what he calls his "Dream" series, a strong, energetic production of mostly animal forms, imposing images of heads but also of plates and jars which developed in the early nineties. His "Dream of Africa" sculptural glazed works involved imaginative, personal interpretations of horses, totems, fossils and rams as well as human heads. Then came a series labeled "Structure & Force" depicting again dynamic figurative bodies after more and more colorfully glazed animal figures: horses, hogs, strangely evocative birds and otherworldly animals with long necks and box-like bodies psychoanalytically labeled "Ids" and "Egos". Shortly thereafter, Shin participated in the building in the south of Korea of a new museum devoted to architectural ceramics-the Clayarch Gimhae Museum-which opened to great acclaim in 2007. The entire facade of this building is composed of Shin's "Fired Paintings", a monumental structure of abstract colorfully designed ceramic tiles.

Since then, Shin's development of succeedingly more intensive expressionistic designs in the proliferation of fired-paintings has increased dynamically in what are now described as "Wrapping-Future City" works. With this series, he has completed more commissioned work for a number of corporate headquarters in Korea and Japan such as the Seoul Samsung Town and Kumho Asiana Main Tower in 2008. To quote the Korean art critic Im Soo-Bin: "Shin strives to unite his "Fired Paintings" and architecture enthusiastically. It is not to simply reinforce or decorate a structure. It is to become an independent art work that gives pleasure while it unites with architecture. He walked through the path from potter's potteries, sculptures, paintings and architecture believing in the limitless potentiality of clay with his own passion." And so, a succession of dreams endows the artist Shin Sangho with "an incessant experimental spirit" and with a constant dynamic production of art works emanating from his quiet pastoral home and studio north of Seoul.

During the course of this exhibition which we have conceived as a project room, hprp gallery and Loveed Fine Arts will exhibit examples ranging from the following series: "Dream of Africa", "Structure & Force", "Fired Painting" and "Wrapping-Future City" in addition to any other potential work this incredibly inventive artist may still come up with in the meantime. Incidentally, for the past year or so, the artist has shifted his gear towards a highly experimental phase in both concepts and techniques. This exhibition will be a great opportunity to discern glimpses of his future possibilities. If most of Shin's career can be described as a limitless quest for creativity, he is now entering a state where his goals are no longer in a linear challenge for change, but in a multidimensional creation through a more complete observation of himself. Therefore, still more variations around new themes generating from this inventive mind might be suggested and ready to be explored.

Ronald Andrew Kuchta

Loveed Fine Arts

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