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Review on Jean Claude Wouters exhibition: "Shadow of the Sky"
Marunouchi Gallery

An image appears within gradations of colors between pale grey and white. It is sometime a Buddha, sometime a monk or a nude. The impression I receive from the images is extremely beautiful, it seems in a process of a search for the truth.

The artist who has photographed this work is Jean Claude Wouters. In Wouter's work, there is no manipulation or digital effect; it is created by re-photographing the image, as a craftsmanship. Perhaps the reason he is so strained to the low technique is in his past life as a dancer.

' When, after several years of obsessive work on the portraits serie (one of his most specific art), it reached an acceptable level of quality; then I realized I was missing the human physical dimension. So I started the nudes serie. The body as the expression.'

From what Jean Claude Wouters said, it is easy to imagine that his believe in the importance of physical nature, brought him to a certain level of spirituality. Just like his student's years Master, Maurice Béjart.

In the beginning of this essay, I wrote that Jean Claude's work seems to be seeking for truth. the same thing can be said of his attitude towards his own process of creativity. He is not prepossessed by the existing sense of value, his attitude is always looking for real nature.

The serie 'Burned Buddha Floating in The Water' is exactly revealing Jean Claude's ambivalent creation. The elements are weaved in between the fragile greys of the Buddha's image. On one hand, we have that deep feeling of the 1000 years of human worship of that physical representation of the Buddha, on the other hand, it is just an idol, a piece of wood that can be burned.

The basis of Jean Claude's Ambivalence are the body and the spirit. With his keen edged body as a dancer, and raised spirit as an artist, he seeks for the truth of human existence.

There is a dim light at the end of his desiring truth. If I may borrow the artist's word, it is the human's light. And this artist is revealing that light on the photographic paper.