

Bijutunomado – 02/2008 – Japan

ART REPORT

On viewing the exhibit : Jean Claude Wouters “Shadow of Sky”

The various artwork of Jean Claude Wouters completely avoid the possibility to understand easily what is depicted in the frame.

The pieces of this solo exhibit do not invoke the visual component of conventional photographs. Wouters created the pieces manually, by repeatedly photographing the subject matter using complex processes, and by incorporating the light in it. During the processes, absolutely no synthetic or digital methods are employed to intensify the image.

This method is used throughout for the “Portrait” pieces.

On exhibit are works depicting female nudes that seem transparent, a monk practicing Zen, and Buddha figures. The subjects emerge out of the delicate shadows created by white to grey tones that seem entirely muddled.

The articulation is extremely sophisticated and lucid. The texture shown through the sheen is not seen in any other artwork, it is unique. It evokes interest, as it has similarities with the scenery seen in old Japanese buildings, when tree leaves and flowers were projected on the shoji screens by the setting sun and flickered like flames.

The artist was born 1956 in Belgium. From the time he was still a student, he was apparently found of Japanese culture. He was previously involved in film direction and won various awards. He carefully studied world class Japanese film directors such as Akira Kurosawa and Kenji Mizoguchi, along with Shuji Terayama and Nagisa Oshima, the leading figures of the sub-culture.

As he lived in Japan for a year, he has a soft spot for Japan`s scenery.

He says that the simplicity which he intends in his work is part of the Japanese culture. He also says, “*The several thousands years of continuity in traditions such as Shinto represent the longing for the Universal*”, which doesn`t exist in Europe. He relates deeply to this.

His unique expression has the enchantment of evoking reality inside viewers` hearts as well as having a quiet approach to the subject matter. It is a fulfilling material, that allows the full realization of the power to evoke through artwork.

(December 13th - February 29th, Marunouchi Gallery)