

## Cong Cong: The Palace

2019.09.21 – 2019.11.01

"World conditions were still confused in the era when this took place. It was not rare then to find names and thoughts and forms and institutions that corresponded to nothing in existence. But at the same time the world was polluted with objects and capacities and persons who lacked any name or distinguishing mark." It was a period when the will and determination to exist, to leave a trace, to rub up against all that existed, was not wholly used since there were many who did nothing about it- from poverty or ignorance or simply from finding things bearable as they were- and so a certain amount was lost into the void. Maybe too there came a point when this diluted will and consciousness of self was condensed, turned to actual objects, as like tiny objects that fill a mighty palace; These things, by accident or by choice, met some name of family or duties or regulations, above all in an empty armor, for in times when armor was necessary even for a man who existed, how much more was it for one who didn't. (Based on *The Nonexistent Knight* by Calvino)

There appears the artist.

The artist is the moon, to give you a little light at night, to tell you it's time to cool down. That reminds me of a saying from people in the African desert, "slow down, wait for your soul." (Cong Cong Notes 2019.8.20)

Antenna Space is pleased to present Cong Cong's solo exhibition "The Palace", where the space has been reconstructed and divided into the two parts with a large disparity in volume. A series of recent works and manuscript materials will be exhibited. Just as we are searching a palace in "The Palace", who is Cong Cong and what is Cong Cong's creation? These will also be searched for —which just like the first time we met Cong Cong. The paintings of Cong Cong never quote or reply upon; she will expatiate every detail for you.

In a word, your heart is to be embodied in the image. At that time, others will see the beauty in your heart. Other than that, I'm afraid it's not that easy! Your heart may discover the objects of beauty (life, society, nature). This "beauty" to you is an objective existence and should not be transferred by your will. (You can only direct your eyes to see her, or not to see her, but not to change her. You can train your eyes to know her, but you cannot shake her. Great Greek art does not diminish its glory because of the Middle Ages. (Where Does Beauty Come from? by Zong Baihua, 1957)

What people paint is related to their own perception, which may be beyond the matter of painting. It's a clarity that goes beyond all concepts. Focus on the painting intently, that's it.

Take a piece of green grass for instance, some places are full of vitality, others with soil exposed, however, it is the grass itself that enters into your eyes even at one glance. Looking at the parts, you judge the perfection and imperfections. Did you see the solid soil under the grass, and the endless dark sky above you? It has nothing to do with perfection, what matters is the true meaning. After all, what you do and yourself are insignificant. Giacometti's portrait is more like the grass metaphor. The mud, as thin as that in a swallow's beak, is just like Cong's painting, for the delicate craftiness of each placement for nest-building. (Cong Cong Notes 2019.8.18)

Cong Cong, born in Qingdao in 1982, graduated from the Art School of Suzhou University with a master's degree in oil painting. She currently lives and works in Shanghai. In 2014, she won the

John Moore Painting (China) Excellence Award. Her works have been put into collection by John Moore University in Liverpool, England.