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Review: Szeto Keung's Art of Meta-Reality

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SZETO KEUNG'S ART OF META-REALITY

If Szeto's own concept of "meta-reality" is applied to his paintings in this exhibition, his recent works can be viewed as manifestations of realistic representation beyond sheer reality, in which he attempts to construct amazingly "realistic" illusions. Pushing this realistic representation to the ultimate, he reveals in his works the paradox of reality: the more realistic he represents, the more illusory he presents. The imitation of the dead/living in art as proof of the living/dead in reality only works towards its opposite.

The poetic atmosphere in these paintings conjures up the image of a wasteland in history. The multi-layered surface becomes a compressed mass of echoes from the past, or perhaps of ancient stories retold again and again. It is permeated with a fin de siecle decadence, in withered roses parted with life, in scattered petals deprived of their youthfulness. Through a symbolism of realistic representation, an aesthetic enlightenment unfolds. Sufferings transcend and transform into a spiritual reception, appreciation, and understanding.

The artist continues to formulate and then deconstruct his realities in the creative process. He works not so much to transform the banality of realities into things beautiful as to interface reality and illusion. He works with realities, seeking to comprehend his own stand of meta-reality.