Leng Jun's Oil Paiting Collection

冷军油画作品



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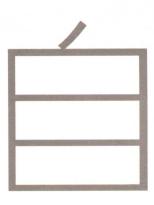
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# LIMITATION AND FREEDOM

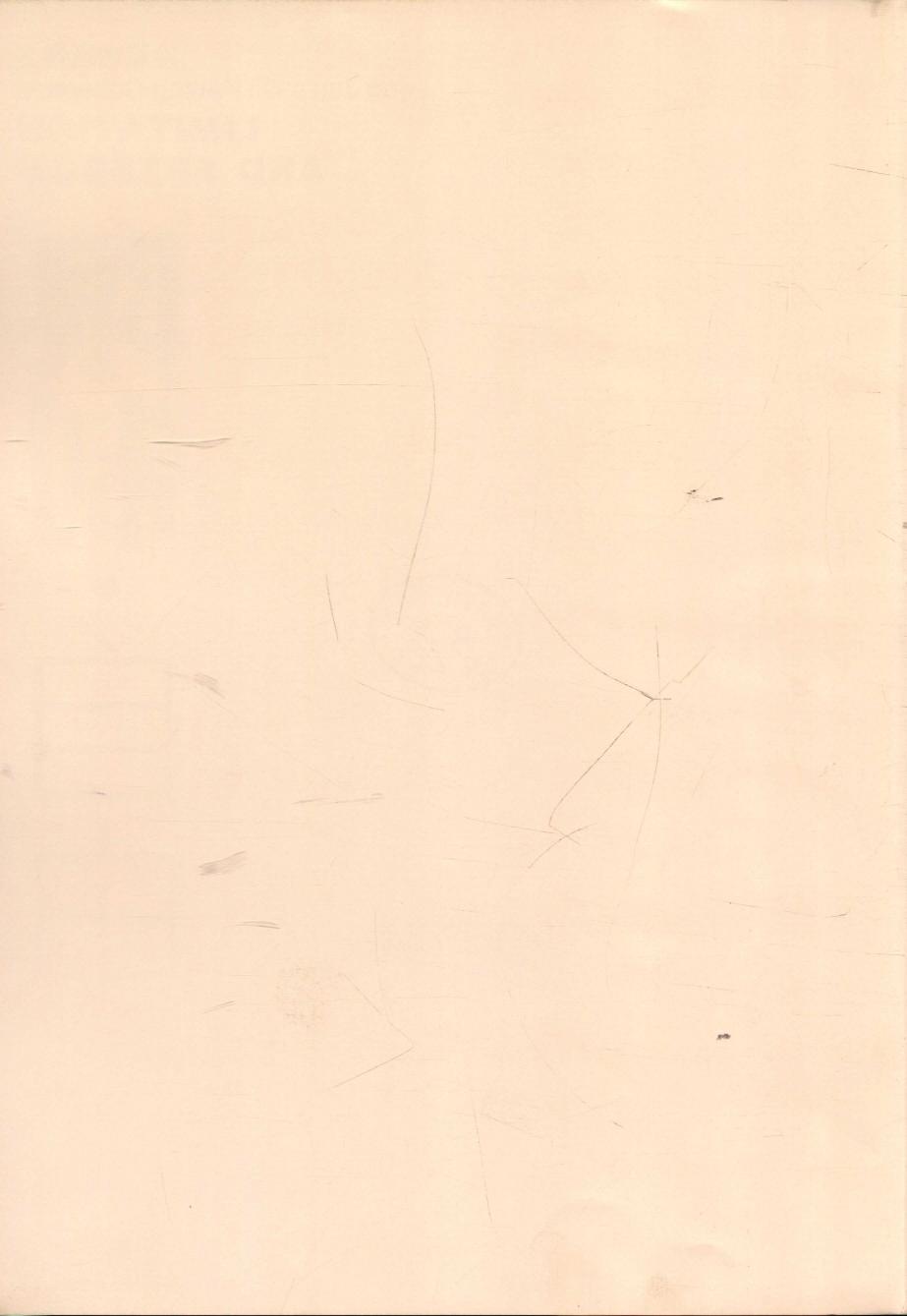


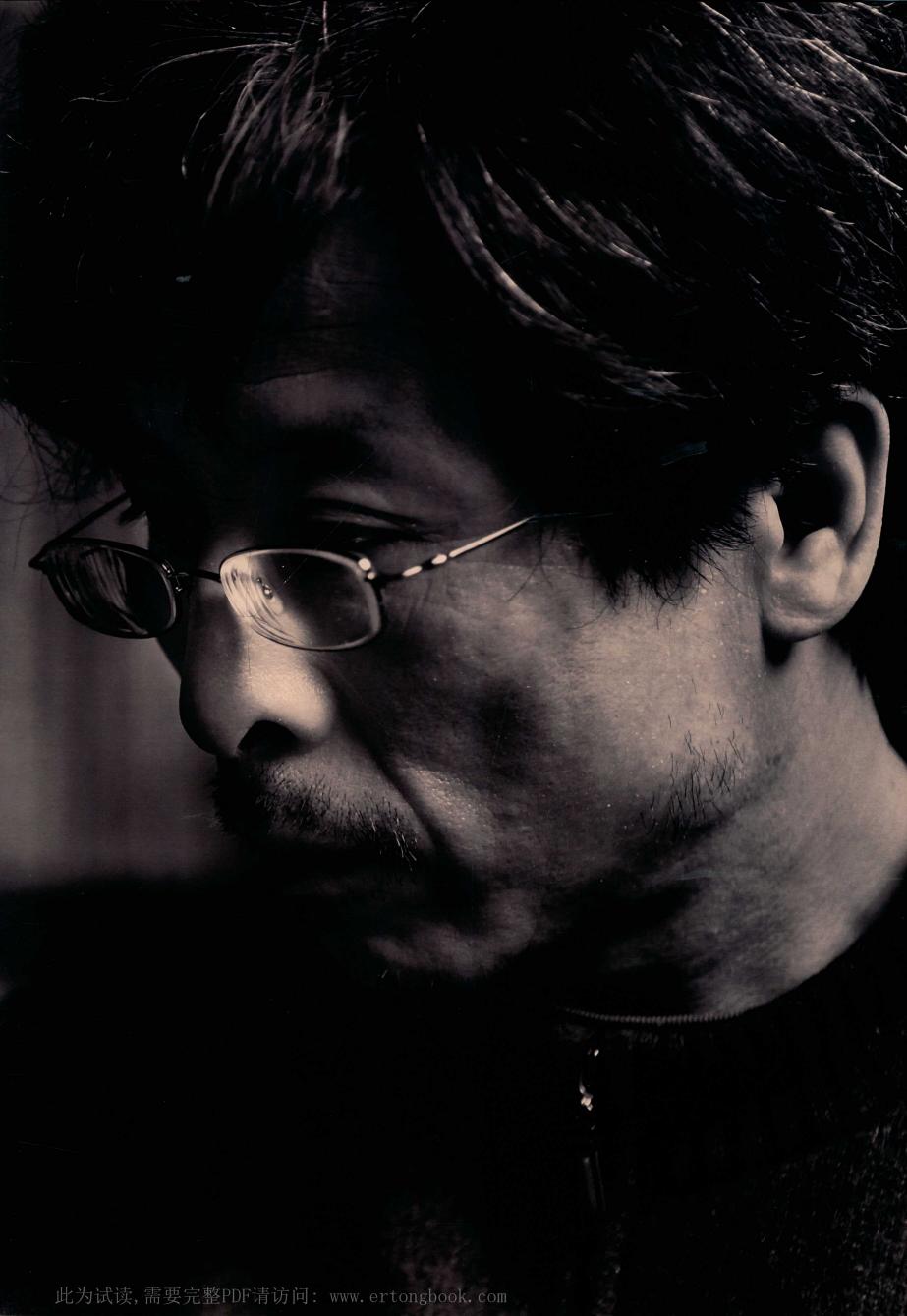


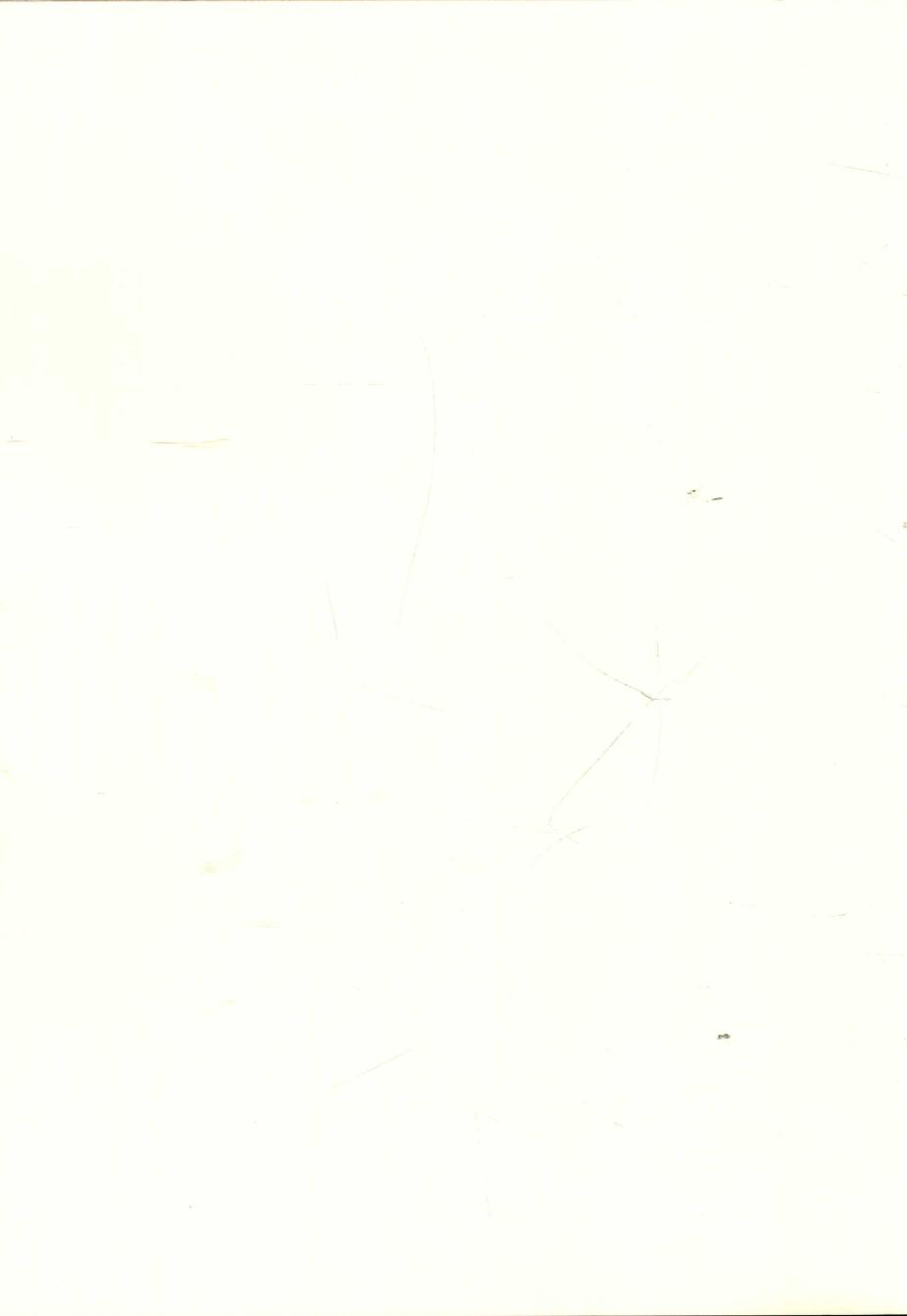










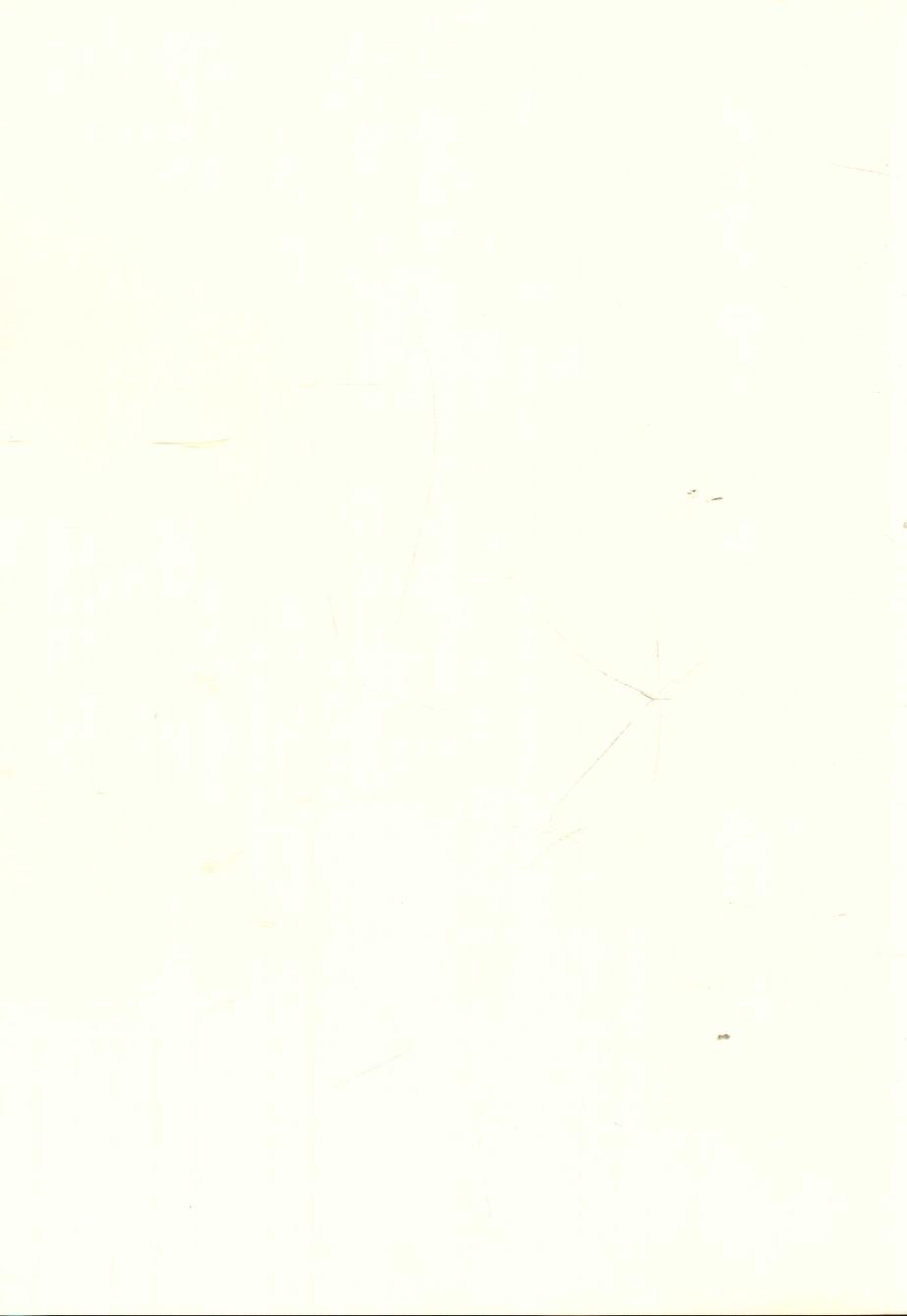


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## 限制与自由

——解读冷军的艺术 常 磊

歌德写于1800年的十四行诗《自然和艺术》阐述了一个朴素的道理, 那便是结尾的两行"在限制中才能显示能手,只有规律能给我们自由"。 我们都认同艺术中的创造性是必要的。艺术的发展史也是一部创造的逻 辑史,通览艺术与科学的诸门类、学科,创造性都是必要的,尤其在科 学领域,创新更是其灵魂所在。创造性的基础乃是既有的经验与知识, 在科学领域,这一点是不言而喻的,没有既有的知识与经验的科学创新 会沦为笑谈。而在绘画艺术领域则有所不同,这里只有模糊与潜在的规 则,并无明确的规范,尤其在十九世纪以后,艺术家多热衷于张扬自我, 在艺术领域追求高度的自由,而历史给予艺术家的表现自由也是前所未 见的。因而"规范"沦落了,在欧美的某些国度几成绝响。叛逆的艺术 家们从规范的限制中挣脱出来,追求自我、张扬个性,在懵懂的创新冲 动里度过了一个世纪。时过境迁,当我们再一次回眸历史,理性地审视 已经发生的这一切,很多艺术家再次认识到"限制"的必要,认识到传 统和规范的可贵。一方面是基于一种自发的历史责任,另一方面基于内 在的审美需求。一些艺术家主动承接了传统与规范的逻辑。在这些中国 的艺术家当中,冷军应该说是最重要的人之一。

早期,有一些人定义冷军的写实艺术风格是"超级写实主义"或"照 相写实主义",其实不然,"超级写实主义"或"照相写实主义"是一 个美术史上的特指,指的是美国六十年代以来开始的一种写实手法,而 这种写实手法是以照片为蓝本,高度精确地描摹,这种风格追求精确甚 于追求艺术语言,这与冷军的写实是迥然异趣的。冷军自己曾经说"我 是按照对象的生成过程"造"出来的。其实很多时候我是不自觉地着迷 于实物本身的纹理细节,包括不经意造成的残缺和痕迹……造化的是自 然的生命,心源是自我心源的展示。"这既是在描述自己的创作过程, 也描述了部分创作动机。至于深层的创作动机,既有意识的,也有潜意 识的,意识的一面艺术家可以用逻辑归纳,潜意识的一面可能艺术家本 人也无从察觉了。但还有一点冷军没有提及的,他的作品多源自于写生 兼有图片的参考。这是与照相写实有显著不同的地方,正是因为直接和 自然交流,所以冷军的作品里有一种照相写实没有的灵光与生命。在表 现手段上也是如此,表现的手段可以逻辑化为两个部分,其一是具体的 材料技术部分,其二是抽象能力部分,这一部分指的是对于绘画诸要素 的把握掌控能力,诸如色彩、造型、结构等等,尤其在这一部分,冷军 的表现其实是完全承接传统的,因而,他的作品在常人眼里是生动逼真, 在行家眼里看到的则是高度严谨完整地控制能力和优雅得体的色彩。后 期,冷军的创作语言有所变化,他创作了一批尺幅不大的相对比较讲求 书写和笔意的作品,主题往往是场景抑或竹子之类的局部景象。虽然表



现语言与他之前的写实作品有所变化,但是内在的审美情绪还是一脉贯穿的。虽然书写,还是充分体现了限制与自由的博弈,充分体现了在限制中的自由,只不过语言的表象分类趋于写意而已。

无论何种艺术形式,在其实践的过程中其实都是限制与自由的博弈。 何谓"限制"?绘画艺术中的限制可以理解为语言审美的规范,也就是 说,无论艺术家选择了什么样的主题或试图表达何种观念,作为承载这 种主题和观念的艺术语言都应该是第一性的,不应该忽略和轻视的。现 代艺术学理论不仅强调艺术的审美价值,也强调艺术的非审美价值,强 调艺术既可以以艺术自身为目的,也可以以艺术之外的东西为目的。的 确,艺术除了具有语言审美的功能之外,还有观念上的认知、教化、隐 喻和社会评价的功效。这是所谓非审美的一部分,准确地说是非视觉语 言审美,因为观念的隐喻中也会有审美的因素抑或积极向善的因素。而 艺术却因此常常为人所断章取义,有一种观点认为,既然艺术可以是非 审美的,那么没有任何必要进行艺术语言的训练。这是一种偏狭的诡辩, 艺术语言承载的观念或隐喻的指向可以是非审美的,但艺术语言本身却 必须是审美的,一切为历史所承认的没有争议的艺术家首先应该是善于 经营艺术语言的大师,这是一个艺术家之所以称为艺术家的标志,艺术 史上对艺术家水准的核定认可所依据的也完全是他的语言所登临的境界, 而不是他传递的可以逻辑描述的观念。在十九世纪以后的艺术实践中, 艺术家常常会受到理论的干扰。对于美学家来说,他的假说起于思辨而 又止于思辨,通过虚拟价值和虚拟本体来自圆其说,纯粹的思辨对于美 学家来说也可以看作任务的全部,虚拟本身也可以成为意义所在,没有 必要产生指导实践的意义。而对于艺术家来说,实践乃是其全部任务, 如果为某些虚拟的思辨所误导则必然得不偿失。

对于艺术家来说,语言永远是第一性的。绘画艺术"语言"与语言学、哲学中的"语言"不同,语言学、哲学中的"语言"不仅仅是一种"指谓"的"工具",它的"能指"、"所指"皆很重要。古代哲学重"所指",即思想的指向;现代哲学重"能指",即语言本身自成体系的结构系统。而对于绘画艺术来说,显然"能指"更重要,也就是与审美相关的表现语言更重要。至于绘画的"所指",即图示部分,则功能有限。在审美语言的意义上,艺术家的表达一定会受到某种限制,虽然语言的审美没有既定严密的规则;虽然视觉语言没有文字语言严密的逻辑性,但艺术家要组织美的语言,也必须要精于语言的模糊规范,这种模糊规范在逻辑上也可以演绎为两个方面,即自然语言方面以及纯粹语言方面,在自然语言(自然物所形成的纯形式关系)的营造上会有相对严谨的约束,

规范的秩序会强一些。在纯粹语言方面语言规范则显得模糊一些,但优 秀艺术家的标志就是精于把握艺术语言。观摩冷军的作品,他的艺术语 言都可以说堪称精湛。超写实的这一部分作品,早期以静物为主,后期 多为人物。按照他的超写实追求,自然形对艺术家的约束可以说是空前 的。作为实践的艺术家都体会过描绘客观自然的难度,在自然形的高度 制约之下还要去审美地改造、表达以及组织自然的优美秩序更是难上加 难。冷军不但做到了,而且做得从容自由、不露痕迹。从纯粹自然的角度, 熟悉冷军作品的人都会知道他所再现的精度,几乎是提炼并超越了自然 本身的视觉魅力。或许,此时有人会提及传统美学里"模仿"的概念。 如果对冷军的作品用模仿来概括未免失之简单了, 他的创作过程是一个 连续的审美和理性交织判断的过程,而且远比一般的艺术家复杂。应该 说,一个艺术家的创作的起点是他构思的阶段,比如冷军所描绘的对象, 静物和人物的安排都是经过精心推敲的,这种推敲有两层意义,按下观 念上的意义不说,还有一层纯形式的意义,冷军作为一个艺术家,他深 谙此道,他知道这一点对他来说是最主要的。从宏观的角度说,画面上 的自然秩序形如何设计,抽象结构如何安顿,色彩如何布置,自然肌理 的节奏如何分布,等等,从微观的角度说,甚至于小到一个钉子在画面 中的位置,一缕发丝垂下的角度,冷军都经过精心地揣度,这一切足可 以说明在拿起画笔之前创作其实就已经开始了。冷军本人也常常谈到他 的设计和描绘的过程,从他的点滴描述中可以窥见他突破自然桎梏的信 心和专注力。再回到冷军的画面里,品读他对自然语言的设计和驾驭, 几乎可以说无懈可击。我们都知道,越是清晰地再现自然,那么自然对 艺术家的制约就越强大,冷军却能在这样的制约里捭阖自由,对自然语 言的节奏控制中庸适度,不温不火。自然语言和纯形式语言是同一事物 之两面,只能在逻辑上独立描述,而在事实上是合一的关系。在纯形式 语言的那一面,冷军从来没有脱离过干古不变的审美规范。因为审美意 识是人类基因中沉淀下来的共性,一旦超出了形式语言的审美规范就很 难为人所认同。人们惊叹他的绘制技术的时候却忽略了他精于形式营造 的本质能力。而这一面才是他真正的实力之标志,也是一切艺术家突破 限制得以自由的最根本的抽象能力。主要是对整体形式的宏观驾驭能力。 冷军曾经说过他很重视整体,并且认为"整体在心里"。他的整体意识 体现在构成视觉语言的每一个细枝末节上,如此繁杂的自然细节协调地 统一在一起,产生视觉合力,没有哪怕一丁点逾越了整体的制约。画面 的色彩温润凝厚,完整地统一在造型的气质里。他作品的材料质感也独 立于他所描绘的自然物的质感,既表达了自然物又彰显了材料形式本身。

在谈到纯形式语言的时候, 我们往往有所误解, 以为可以进行形式

语言分析的作品都是相对表现的,其实不然。形式语言对于任何风格的绘画来说意义都是等同的,绘画终极境界之确立最主要的是依靠纯形式语言的组织所达到的境界,虽然模糊却仍然可以判断,无论在何种风格的作品中,纯形式语言的意义都是同样重要的。我们回头看一看欧美的一些照相写实主义画家,他们刻画自然形也很深入,但作品的语言死寂,毫无灵光,因此,从这个意义上我们说,这样的作品不是好的作品,唯有再现的逼真而已。冷军的作品之所以得到如此高度的认同,主要也是基于他的纯形式语言的境界,而不是他深入地描绘了自然。而他后来的一些相对书写的作品更能够印证他处理自然与形式的精良能力,场景写生的那一部分作品尤其是,因为这一部分作品与超写实在表象上有所不同,在语言方式上强化了色彩、肌理等纯形式的部分。

很多人往往从"技术"的角度赞美冷军的作品,并且把冷军作品的价值所在完全误读为"技术",似乎与艺术无关。甚至还有人想当然地的认为,只要有耐心,艺术家都能达到。在他们看来,似乎重视了方法便流于"技",从而损于"道"。因为他们没有看见冷军作品中自然背后的形式以及强大的抽象概括能力和综合判断力。当代的艺术家往往强调"表现"的空中楼阁而忽略"方法"的现实根基,强调抽象的"精神"而忽略精神得以实现的手段。这种认识是有悖于艺术实践逻辑的。很多人囿于认识的局限,所以把技术和艺术两分对立,不在真正的艺术实践中去考量技艺的一体关系,而是仅仅在思辨的语言学层面,通过概念一厢情愿地演绎推导,于是技术和艺术的关系就沦为了空泛的概念游戏,于实践毫无意义。

十八世纪以前,在"科学"和"艺术"这种大的学科分类没有形成的时候,技术和艺术往往混为一体,因为在那个时候没有学科分类,没有现代意义上的精尖技术,艺术和技术的界限非常模糊。随着学科分类的逐渐精细,技术和艺术的现实界限逐渐清晰了。而在艺术领域,技术和艺术仍然只有逻辑上的界限,并无现实中的界限。技术和艺术犹如自然与形式的关系,是现实上的一体关系。在冷军的两种语言类型的作品里,我们都无法区分哪一部分属于技术,哪一部分属于艺术。古今中外论"技"论"艺"者很多,庄子谈"技",是为了要阐释"道"。他认为当"技"达到出神入化之时,技就是"进乎道",在这种意义上的技也就是艺术了。西方的哲学家,诸如海德格尔、本雅明等都阐述过对于技术和艺术的看法。从绘画艺术的角度,我们可以这样认为,技术是艺术的逻辑载体,绘画艺术所使用的是元素符号,元素符号的表达是出自于精神的需要,犹如生产中使用具体的工具是出于物质的需要。我们把艺术表现的能力演绎为三个部分,一个是具体的部分,另外一个是抽象的部分。第三是方法

理性的部分。具体部分的能力包括对于材料性能认知了解、驾驭的程度 以及客观塑造自然形的能力等,这一部分和具体的物质材料关系更紧密 一些,客观的成分略多,但最后如何驾驭这些物质材料,使之成为艺术 却还是依靠一种主观的无法量化的感受。观摩冷军的作品,他毫无疑问 拥有这一方面的卓越能力,非专业的人士所惊叹的也是他的这种能力, 但非专业人士不知道的是,这种能力只能作为后期的抽象能力的材料。 第二部分是抽象的部分,抽象部分主要是指艺术家对造型、色彩、肌理、 形式等绘画因素抽象的判断和营造的能力。上述诸因素对于艺术家来说 皆如抽象的工具,而作品的优劣往往就是取决于对于这些抽象的精神工 具理解以及组合驾驭的自由度。历史上伟大的艺术家都是这些抽象工具 的高度自由的驾驭者,可以说艺术家突破限制取得自由的过程,也就是 对于这些抽象的精神工具不断征服驾驭的过程。冷军也不例外,当他创 作第一批精彩的写意场景的时候,让人们觉得意外。因为在既有的印象 当中,他的超写实风格在意识中被定格了,人们没有想到冷军还能以这 种语言方式来创作。其实,驾驭抽象精神工具的能力达到一定高度的话, 一旦艺术家有语言变化的内在要求,那么他对抽象的语言工具的驾驭能 力就会使他通行无阻,会很快熟悉这个新的语言领域。当然,这些只是 抽象工具而已,冷军的语言变化是依据他本人内在的审美需要而定,语 言的样式风格完全屈从于他内在的需要。也就是说,当冷军产生变化语 言风格的内在需要时,他所依据的仍然是他对于抽象工具的驾驭能力, 这是根本所在,风格只是抽象精神工具的组合运用问题。对于精神工具 的运用本身是高于风格、逻辑上优先于风格,但却又要通过风格来展示的。 第三部分是方法理性部分,也就是在艺术实践过程当中的方法程序认知。 我们不得不承认,冷军有很多艺术家所没有的敏锐的方法直觉,他的良 好的方法感是他娴熟地驾驭自然的利器。在这方面,理性的作用充分显 现出来了。面对自然的对象,他会首先思考表现的方法,包括他后来的 一批写意的作品也是这样。冷军的方法可以说是传统和创新的融会,面 对不同的自然对象,他都会理性地判断恰当表现的方法。在某些时候会 实验在前,直到得到满意可靠的结果才付诸画面的实践。这是符合艺术 实践逻辑的,历史上的很多伟大的艺术家其实也是这样做的,比如达芬 奇为了试验新的材料和方法不慎毁掉了某些作品。冷军重视方法,但并 不唯方法论,他良好的方法判断意识再加上强大的抽象语言工具的控制 力使他在创作的时候无往不胜。方法是手段,是恰当地通向他精神彼岸 的桥梁,方法不是目的,但如果在艺术实践中陷入方法虚无主义的认识 里面,空谈表现,这样的艺术家往往一事无成。

冷军在选择创作主题的时候不是随意的,一般意有所指。他谈到自

己的创作时说"表达自己对客观物象的主观感受,虽不是借物抒情但创作中也免不了要巧妙地借助它物隐喻自己的观点看法"。纵观他的整体的创作线路图,也的确是这样的。冷军虽然把语言当做艺术的第一性,但他也不忽略某种隐喻的观念陈述。他的这种隐喻的观念在创作当中在一个具体的时期呈现出相对稳定的指向。例如他的"世纪风景"系列的创作观念意图很明显,通过描述一系列的现代社会的负产品的组合,表达对后工业时代的一种无声地指斥。"五角星"系列也阐述一种观念,五角星本身代表了某种价值的指向,而锈蚀、残破、腐败、累累修补的五角星则是对这个价值指向的否定,既是批判亦兼否定之否定的美好升华预期。《突变——有刺的汤匙》则有异曲同工之意。后来的"肖像"系列似乎又在静静地陈述一种古典的审美观念,在高速浮躁的现代社会里与观众一起重新审视传统、回味经典的意识,寻找久违的宁静心态。包括他后期的一些场景都意有所指,似乎要把观众引领到消弭已久的古典沙龙里,品读曾经的人文风范,充满了怀旧的情绪。

总之,作品的观念价值是双向综合的,既有冷军的隐喻观念,亦有观众的仁智之见。冷军作品的观念指向吻合社会文化现象深层结构要求,是这个宏观结构中的个别元素。它必然、也只能在这个时代出现。最难得的是冷军把主题或隐喻的观念与艺术语言本身很好地统一在了一起,形成了一个相辅相成的整体结构。纵观艺术史,我们会发现其中为史册垂青的典范人物都符合这种历史文化结构的要求。这些艺术家恰当地把作品镶嵌在共时的历史文化结构中。艺术家不像思想家那样依靠形而上学的虚设,而是依靠直觉与实践来实现。这种直觉必须要符合宏观文化结构的整体共时性秩序,艺术家通过自己的实践,突破自然的限制和表现的限制,追求表达的自由,通过获得这种自由来达到自身与作品的平衡,从而达到作品与文化历史环境的平衡。

当代艺术现象是一种庞杂的大潮,我们常谓之多元。多元并举,花 开各表是艺术繁盛的表现。艺术家如何认识和介入艺术则需要智慧的考 量。当然这一切对于艺术家来说不仅依靠理性地设计,而更主要的是依 靠直觉的模糊体察。冷军在中国当代艺术家当中堪称典范,他敏锐地把 握了他以及他的作品在现代艺术中的位置,以及在当代历史人文环境里 的恰当所在。所以,他构建了自身与历史文化的平衡关系,当然,这一 切的逻辑前提是:突破限制,获得自由。



## Limitation and Freedom

——Reading Leng Jun's Art Essay by Chang Lei

Nature and Art, they go their separate ways,
It seems; yet all at once they find each other.
Even I no longer am a foe to either;
Both equally attract me nowadays.
Some honest toil's required; then, phase by phase,
When diligence and wit have worked together
To tie us fast to Art with their good tether,
Nature again may set our hearts ablaze.
All culture is like this; the unfettered mind,
The boundless spirit's mere imagination,
For pure perfection's heights will strive in vain.
To achieve great things, we must be self—confined:
Mastery is revealed in limitation
And law alone can set us free again.
From Goethe's Selected Poetry

Goethe's sonnet in 1800 has expounded a simple truth, which is expressed in the last sentence: "Mastery is revealed in limitation; and law alone can set us free again." It is agreed to all that creativity is essential in art. The history of art is also a logical history of creation. Creativity is necessary for other subjects as well, such as science, of which the soul lies in creation. Creativity is based on existing experience and knowledge, and it is selfevident in the field of science: there can hardly be any scientific innovation without the existing experience and knowledge. However, it is rather different in the field of art, where rules are vague and latent, without a definite standard. This situation becomes more obvious in the 19th century, when European artists tended to self-expression, requiring a higher degree of artistic freedom than ever before. As a result, "standard" is descended from the high altar, or even vanished in some countries. The rebellious artists, having broken away from the limitation of the academic standards, began to express their individuality, and have spent the 20th century in the impulse of creativity. As time passed, in retrospect with a rational and subjective attitude, a number of artists have re-recognize the importance of "limitation", rediscovering the value of tradition and norm. The reason for doing so is, on one hand, it stems from a spontaneous historical responsibility; on the other hand, it is based on the internal aesthetic requirement. Some artists have actively inherited the logic of tradition and norm, and Leng Jun is one of them.

Leng Jun's early works have been identified by some as "photorealism" or "hyper-realism", but that was far from truth. The "photorealism" or "hyper-realism" is a term in visual art, primarily applied to paintings from the United States art movement that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It is a genre of painting based on using cameras and photographs to gather visual information and then from this creating a painting that appears to be photographic. It emphasizes the accuracy of representation rather than the artist's own artistic language, therefore it is widely different from Leng's realism. Leng has

once said: "(My works) are created according to how the object comes into being. In fact, I am obsessed unconsciously with the textual detail of the object, including its defects and flaws...they are creations of nature, and my works represent them with my personal understanding and feeling." Leng's words have described not only the process of art-working, but also part of his motivation. In regard to the deeper motivation, it involves consciousness and sub-consciousness: while the former can be concluded logically by the artist, the latter may not be perceived. Leng has mentioned that he paints both from life and photograph, and this is why his works are different from those of photographic realism. For he communicates directly with nature, there is a spiritual and living sense which cannot be found in photographic realism. His expression methods can be divided into two parts: the techniques of applying the artistic media, and the abstraction ability. The first part refers the artist's mastery of various factors of painting, such as coloring, shaping and structuring. Leng's techniques are learned from the classical tradition, thus his paintings seems vivid to ordinary viewers; rigorous, highly-completed, precise in composition and elegant in color to other artists. In the later period, there is some variations in Leng's art. He has created a group of small-scaled paintings depicting scenes and still life like the bamboo, in which the brushstrokes appear more arbitrary. Although changes have taken place in his representation method, the underlying aesthetic taste remains the same. The caligraphylike brushstrokes express a play between limitation and freedom, reflecting freedom in limitation: it is merely the appearance that seems capricious.

In practice, every form of art is actually a game between limitation and freedom. So what does it mean by "limitation"? The limitation in art can be understood as aesthetic norms. That is to say, whatever theme the artist chooses or whatever conception he/she wants to convey, the aesthetic language that bears the ideas should be valued in the first place instead of being neglected. Modern art theory not only stresses the aesthetic value of art, but also the non-aesthetic value; in other words, the purpose of art can be art itself, or something other than art. It is true that the aesthetics is not the only function of art; art has other functions such as perception, education, metaphor and social criticism, which belong to its non-aesthetic value. To be more accurately, they are non-aesthetic in the dimension of

visual language, while there are aesthetic and positive factors in conception. However, this often leads to some misunderstandings about art. Some people hold that since art can be non-aesthetic, the training of artistic language is unnecessary. It is a sophistic view. The conception or metaphor that resides in the artistic language can be non-aesthetic, but the artistic language itself must be aesthetic. The mastery of artistic language is a universal standard for judging the quality of an artist. But since the 19th century, the artistic practice has been interfered by theories. For aestheticians, their theory begins with hypotheses and ends in speculation; their mission is pure philosophical contemplation, it can be suppositional and virtual. But for artists, it is their job to carry out artistic practice, so it is more harm than good to be misled by complicated metaphysical speculations.

Therefore for artists, artistic language is always primary. It is different from the "language" in liquistic philosophy, where language functions as a tool in the signifying practice, in which the signifier and the signified both play important roles. Classical philosophy emphasized the signified, which is the direction of thought; while modern philosophy emphasizes the signifier, which is the system and structure of language itself. Apparently for painting, the signifier, which means the representative language that relates to aesthetics is more important. As to the signified, the picture, is limited in function. In the sense of aesthetic language, the expression of artist will be limited in certain extent even without rigorous rules; although there are less logical norms in visual language than in written language, an artist must know the ambiguous rules of art in order to well-organize the language of beauty. There are two aspects in the ambiguous rules of art: the natural aspect and the abstract one. There are certain rules and orders in the natural aspect, while relatively less in the abstract aspect. A symbol of an excellent artist is his/her mastery of the artistic language, and Leng Jun is undoubtedly an examplar. In his serie of Hyper-realism, the limitation of the natural form is unprecedently strict. It is already difficult to depict in the photographic-realist manner, and it is exceedingly difficult to aesthetically reform, express and organize a natural elegant effect in such a precondition. But Leng has achieved it, as if he has made it at ease. Everyone who is familiar with his work is amazed by his precision in representation which even transcends the visual fascination of nature itself. Perhaps someone will tag

his works as mere imitation, but it may be too simple a conclusion for Leng's art. His art making is a continuous process in which aesthetic interweaved with rational judgment. Generally speaking, an artist begins with conception. In Leng's case, the objects have been elaborately arranged, which involves both conceptual and formal considerations. As an artist, Leng knows this well. From the order of the objects, the abstract structure, the applying of color, the rhythm of texture, to the position of a small nail, and the angle of a lock of hair, are so carefully handled by the artist. All these can explain that Leng's art creating has begun even before picking up the brush. His ability in manipulating the artistic language is impeccable. It is known to all that a style that requires more accurate representation of the nature lays more restraints to the artist. But Leng seems free under such limitations, which is reflected in his moderate control of the natural aspect of the artistic language. Although the natural aspect and the abstract aspect seem to be independent from each other logically, they are practically two sides of a coin. In regard to his form and style, Leng has never broken away from classical aesthetics, because he thinks it a common perception of all human beings and once violated it is hard to be appreciated by most of the viewers. Furthermore, while praising his techniques, viewers often neglect his creating and arrangement of forms, which is the real sign of his ability, also the ability of abstraction that enable an artist to breakthrough the limitations. This ability is reflected in his handling of the macroscopic form. Leng pays much attention to the entirety, while the entirety is embodied in every detail on the canvas. When all the details are arranged in harmony, it produces a strong visual power of the entirety. In his works, the color is perfectly unified in the forms, mild and solid. And the material texture is different from that of the objects, demonstrating the material form while representing the nature of the objects.

We always have misunderstandings regarding to the pure formal language, thinking that works are representative if their forms can be put into analysis. However, it is not the fact. The significance and importance of formal language is equivalent for any artistic style. The organization of formal language is decisive to the quality of the painting. Some photographic-realist paintings in the West are vivid in the portrayal of details, but lacking spirituality. In this sense, those paintings are no more than mechanical imitations. While Leng's works are outstanding because he is