段正渠 Duan Zhengqu

精选文章 Selected Articles

《你好, 黄昏!——段正渠》 主编:刘鼎 2019

Hello, Dusk!
—— Duan Zhengqu
Editor: Liu Ding
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前言

Foreword

和段正渠老师的相识,是在 2013 年底。当时,我参与策划"从艺术的问题到立场的问题:社会主义现实主义的回响"展览,为此邀请段老师参展。在 2013 年开启这样的一个研究与展览计划,旨在反思和探索社会主义现实主义的遗产,对于当今艺术创作和艺术史书写在意识形态上的影响。

这个计划中的一部分研究,考察了由艺术体制派生出的评价机制与艺术创作之间的关系。自80年代后期以降,中国艺术领域里逐渐形成了体制内艺术、学院艺术与体制外的当代艺术的分野,并产生了不同的阵营。艺术家与艺术界的大多数人一样,在90年代中逐渐促成并接受了这样的格局。尽管面对创作自身时,艺术家并不总是受到这个设定的局限。但当这种设定转化为普遍价值时,却在很大程度上限制了研究者的视野,也使研究者和创作者往往忽略了回到作品本身这样一个朴素的道理。这也是为什么我们可以说长期以来,段正渠的工作在当代艺术界中是缺席的,同时缺失的是对他工作的理解与评价,也使我们无法充分地受惠于他的工作可能带给我们的启示。

当我为这个展览联系并拜访他在首师大的工作室时,他显得有些意外。虽然此前素未谋面,但我们 几乎不需要寒暄就直入主题,看作品,谈创作。这是我第一次看到段老师作品的原作,即时就被他 画面中惯用的黑色与褐色所吸引。

我对于研究段正渠老师创作的兴趣既有基于艺术史的思考,也是从一个艺术家的角度出发的。一方面, 我深深地被他在画面上反复描摹的内容以及打磨的艺术语言所吸引,他所坚持的题材对于今天的艺术世界无疑打开了一个别样的角度;另一方面,作为一位比我年长的艺术家,段正渠老师长期耕耘于创作,始终纠缠于创作,始终只为创作的问题所苦恼的历程,是我感同身受并心有所向的。与我所有策划过的其他展览相同,在这个展览中,我从一个艺术家的角度去理解段老师的工作,始终忠于他的创作来开展策展的实践,就如同艺术家始终忠于创作一样。我也相信,艺术自身在一定程度 My acquaintance with Duan Zhengqu dates back to the end of 2013, when I was preparing towards the *From the Issue* of *Art to the Issue of Position: Echoes of Socialist Realism* exhibition as curator and invited him to take part. Initiating the research project in 2013 was an endeavor to reflect on the legacies of socialist realism and their ideological influences on artistic creations and the writing of art history today.

Part of the research project examines the connection between art practices and the evaluation system deriving from institutions. From the late 1980s on, the polarization between official art, academic art, and contemporary art outside of the official systems gradually widened, and came to the point that eventually turned into a clear demarcation between the three camps. Artists, like the majority of the art world, gradually fostered and accepted the art scene in the mid-1990s, although their own practices were not always confined by this structural limitation. Yet researchers are more easily blinded when such framework has since integrated into the universal value system, and tend to ignore the fundamental importance of artwork itself. Precisely from such limitations can we say that Duan Zhengqu's work has long been absent from the contemporary art world. Moreover, there is also an absence in understanding and critical evaluation of his work, which might obstruct from finding more inspiration within his oeuvre, which might obstruct us from benefiting from the inspirations within his work.

When I reached out to Duan Zhengqu for this exhibition and visited his studio at Capital Normal University, he seemed reasonably surprised. Though we never met before, we almost immediately started to look at his works and discuss his art practice. This marked my first time seeing Duan's originals, and instantly I was attracted by his extensive use of black and brown palettes.

My research interest in Duan Zhengqu's work originates both from my art history-oriented thoughts and my practice as an artist. On the one side, I am deeply attracted by his cultivation of refined artistic language and the recurring themes in his paintings, recognizing that the motif he has always stuck with has opened up new dimensions in the

上可以超越这些人为设置的分野与边界。

在我看来,段正渠老师的大多数画作中,昏暗的色调一直贯穿着所有的画面,不管他构筑何种场景和景象。他的作品中既有抒情意味的昏暗,也有英雄主义气质的昏暗。当谈到这种暗色的来源时,段正渠提到了他第一次去陕北时,听米脂老乡唱酸曲儿所感受到的震撼: "曲调沧桑悲凉,即使唱歌的人嘻嘻哈哈,歌声里却始终有着一种凄厉。由于不大懂歌词,这凄厉又多出了一些神秘。于是,这酸曲儿于我便显示出了一种浓黑、厚重的情感色彩。我就想,我的画桂在坚硬的窑壁上该像个年久的门窗一样结实透气,像地上的干枯的沙蒿服帖才对,真正能代表黄土高原的颜色,应该是肃豫、庄重而又 纯粹的。我所画的是生活的皮,应该去找它的灵魂。于是,就开始尝试把色彩往单纯里往暗里画。"1

段老师这种浓郁的人文情怀, 启发了我以"你好, 黄昏"作为段正渠老师在魔金石个展的题目。

在筹划这个展览时,段正渠老师主要是想呈现他 2015 年以来的新作,这些作品在面貌上比他之前的作品更为平和舒展。我根据段老师的想法把展览的叙述空间扩大,从他不同的创作阶段中遴选出三个不同的角度,以此勾勒出他创作生涯中具有人文色彩的一面,并将展览的重点放在 2015 年以来的新作上。

整个展览以三幅创作于 2012 至 2015 年间非常有诗意的纸上水彩画为开篇,将两幅风景写生《魏塔后山》和《安崖》,以及画着一个对着小水潭照镜子的人的《水影》,作为展览的引子。展览的第一章节侧重着墨于段正渠创作生涯初始时的探索,以时间跨度比较大的一组草稿与油画作品,呈现艺术家自 80 年代置身于形式解放的时风以来所进行的多种探索。其中最早的是 1980 年的一张纸本水彩,画中两个无头的正装男子与云朵飘飘的蓝色天空具有浓郁的玛格丽特风格,也有 80 年代中期到 2001 年为创作群像所勾勒的带有表现主义风格的草稿。这个单元还展出了一幅创作于 1984 年的油画,画面的主体是一棵核桃树,落了叶,露出壮硕的枝桠,在空中交错伸展。核桃树下,一个孩子荡着秋千。画面充满抒情的意味,让人联想起自 1975 年起就频繁访华和举办个人画展的日本画家平山郁夫的画面语言。

第二章节通过 15 件水彩与色粉作品,展示了一系列创作于 2016 年前后带有神秘气息的纸上作品。这些绘画作品延续了他 2000 年后的魔幻现实主义风格,与此前不同的是,他在画面中取消了叙事性的

contemporary art world. On the other side, I find a deep resonance with his continuous exploration and even struggles on painting, and that as an artist who is senior to me, his insistence on questioning and practicing creations exhibits an ideal state I would aspire to achieve. Consistent with my curatorial approach in every other exhibition, I took the perspective of an artist in understanding Duan Zhengqu's work, remaining truthful to his artistic practices, in the same spirit as an artist stays always truthful to his own practice. I believe, to some extent, art in itself could surpass the arbitrarily imposed boundaries and divisions.

In the majority of Duan Zhengqu's paintings, the hues of dusk run continually throughout the canvas of the artist regardless of whether it is a setting or landscape. There is a lyrical allusion, as well as a heroic temperament to the vision of dusk evoked within his work. When the conversation turns to influences informing his choice of dark colors, Duan Zhengqu mentions the shock felt, the first time hearing a local villager sing a folk love song during his trip to Mizhi County: The tune was full of sorrow even though the singer was jolly as they sang. There was a mournful tone throughout, from beginning to the end of the song. Although I couldn't completely understand the meaning of the lyrics, there was so much sorrow and mystery to the words. So it was really this song that showed a dark and thick emotional color to me. This made me think back to if my paintings were to hang on the walls of these cave dwellings, they should be as sturdy with the signs of ageing like the doors and windows to this place, or like a dried-up weed in the ground, these are the true colors that represent the Loess Plateau. It should be serene, solemn and unaltered. I was painting the skin of life and I ought to be searching for its soul. Therefore, I soon started to take the colors towards an unaltered state of darkness in order to paint.

 $This \ heavy \ sense \ of \ humanism \ was \ my \ inspiration \ incubating \ the \ exhibition \ \textit{Hello, Dusk!} \ at \ Magician \ Space.$

In preparing towards the exhibition, Duan Zhengqu suggested his preference towards a presentation of his new works since 2015, while the group of works were much smoother in appearance. Taking on his thoughts, I expanded the narrative space of the exhibition, brought together three different perspectives to outline the remarkable humanism characterizing Duan Zhengqu's work and the main focus of the exhibition is placed on new works dated from 2015 anwards.

As an introduction to the entire exhibition, it begins with three watercolor works on paper, painted between 2012 and 2015: there are two landscape sketches *Mountains Behind Weita* (2012) and *Anya* (2012) as well as a painting of person looking into the reflection of a pond *Reflection* (2015). Beginning in the 1980s, this first chapter describes the early stages of Duan's career and focuses on a collection of sketches and oil painting – this body of work spans an extensive period to present exploratory forms of liberation for the artist. Amongst the earlier works by the artist is a watercolor created in 1980, which features two headless male figures, formally dressed and a floating cloud in a Magritte-esque blue sky. This chapter also includes a group of sketches in an expressionist style created in the period between the mid-1980s and the year 2001, along with an oil painting dated to the year 1984, depicting a walnut tree, fallen leaves and bare branches, interweaving with one another in the air – a child appears below the walnut tree as it plays on a swing. It is a scene full of lyrical meaning, reminiscent of the pictorial language of the Japanese painter Yoshio Hirayama, an artist who has

^[1] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu [M]. (Chengdu: Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts Publication, 2016), p.291.

11 段正渠,《花园村艺话:段正渠》[M].成都:四川美术出版社,2016,第291页.

情节。这个系列的作品中反复出现土红、土黄、群青和深灰色等颜色。画面中臆造出的精灵、变形的 人物肖像与灰暗的风景结合在一起,构成了梦境般的空间。这几年,艺术家通过在画面中编织这些苦 心经营的场景,一直在尝试寻找创作中新的突破点。在这一系列作品的绘画语言上,艺术家充分结合 了宋元时期墓室壁画里的绘制手法,在画面中使用了大量飘逸的线条,使整个画面显得空灵、舒缓。

第三章节以两组风格不同的风景画为主旨,呈现了风景画在艺术家生涯中的重要意义。第一组是色调凝重、画面雄浑的风景画,如 2014 年创作的《黄河浊浪》;另一组画面则显得更加平缓幽暗。在这个并非回顾展但又具有回顾意义的小型展览中,我们可以充分地看到几条线索以彼此缠绕和绵延不断的方式,始终贯穿于段正渠独特的生涯之中,像不息的河流,其永动的能量来源,则是艺术家自身对于真实的执念。

在整个展览策划的过程中,段老师慷慨地把他的创作心血交给我,由我自由编辑,在此我要诚挚地感谢他的信任。魔金石空间的曲科杰先生和潘宝会女士将崭新的空间交由我发挥,并在整个过程中充分尊重和极力配合艺术家和策展人的想法,让我体会到他们始终以艺术和艺术家为主旨的理念。我的太太卢迎华女士为展览撰写了长文,在文中清晰地勾勒出了段老师的创作生涯和中国艺术界发展的关系。最后还要感谢所有为这个展览付出努力的朋友。

这本画册编辑与出版主要基于展览的思路,又有所延展,呈现了段正渠老师的部分创作,也见证了我们三方此次无比顺畅、亲密无间的合作。

held solo exhibitions here and has travelled frequently to China since 1975.

The second chapter displays a series of 15 works created around the period of 2016. Comprising of watercolor and pastel on paper, each has an enigmatic aura to them. These post-2000 paintings elaborate on his style of magic realism. Unlike in the past, he relinquished the use of a narrative plot entirely. Earthly hues of red, yellow, ultra-marine blue and dark greys, repeatedly appear throughout the series. Spirits, deformed figurative portraits, and gloomy landscapes, combine together in the picture plane and into a dreamlike space. In the last few years, the artist has been trying to search for new breakthroughs with his work by painstakingly weaving together these scenes within the canvas. For the painting language used throughout this body of work, he adopts the techniques found in tomb murals dated to the Song and Yuan Dynasties, and uses a large number of their elegant lines in the canvas to make the entire picture ethereal and soothing.

The third chapter takes two different styles to highlight the major significance landscapes have had throughout the artist's life. The first set is a group of landscapes with solemn hues and imposing images such as the work *The Billowy Yellow River* (2014); while the other group has more of a mild soberness to them. Rather than presenting a "retrospective" per se, this small-scale exhibition looks to offer reflection into the artist's comprehensive body of work – what is noticeable is the recurring threads as they persist within his practice, while also overlapping with one another. There is seemingly an uninterrupted flow and indefatigable energy to his continued observation into reality since the beginning of his career.

I would like to thank wholeheartedly for Duan Zhengqu's trust in passing on his precious works to me, and endowing me with an enormous freedom to arrange. I would also like to thank Mr. Kejie Qu and Ms. Baohui Pan from Magician Space for providing me with their new exhibition space and for their respects toward and cooperation with both the artist and curator, exhibiting fully their mission in centering their works around art and artists – as well as my wife, Ms. Carol Yinghua Lu, in drafting a long piece and clearly outlining the interactions between Duan Zhenqu's creative career and developments of the Chinese art world. Last but not least, I would like to thank all friends who have contributed to this exhibition.

The editing and publishing of this catalogue carries on threads of thoughts in the exhibition while further extending them in presenting some of the works of Mr. Duan Zhengqu. The edition also witnesses the smooth and intimate cooperation between the three parties of us.

你好, 黄昏!

文/卢迎华

Hello, Dusk!

Text by Carol Yinghua Lu

"我一直觉得黄昏使人忧伤,黑夜充满神秘。在我童年的回忆里,黄昏有着特殊的意味,这里面好像隐含了太多的不可名状的伤感情绪。而黑夜又充满了太多的'不可知',似乎一切都隐藏在不可预料之中。正因为不可知,它就变得更有吸引力,也正因为如此,表现'神秘'也就成了我一直着迷的课题。"!

---段正渠

要恰如其分地认识和理解段正渠的作品及其在创作上所选择的道路,我们必须回到20世纪80年代的中期。 这是形成中国当代艺术的轮廓、论述与价值判断的一个关键节点,同时,这个历史情境也是艺术家形成个 人创作方案的一个重要背景。那时,段正渠刚刚毕业于广州美术学院油画系不久,他自愿放弃留校的机会, 选择回到家乡郑州,在郑州画院工作。关于自己当时的创作状态,段正渠这样写道:

"美术上的新潮那么一波一波地兴着,波及郑州这样的地方城市,本不怎么坚实的浪就较塌塌地跌落下来, 渗入生活变作安逸的一部分。大概是因为性格中的那点孤傲,我的幻想总与生活不大搭调,既黏附不了平 庸,更黏附不了新潮,即使一条热闹的尾巴。但我也会有些像新潮却与新潮并不相干的行为,比如拿大桶 油漆颜料波洒出所谓"抽象"的作品;收集物什摆弄所谓"装置";画些"前卫的"带有观念的作品等等…… 当时的所谓创作,既是一种对波澜不惊又无处下手的生活的直接宣泄,对各方面传来声音的反应和一种微 力的抵抗,更是因了平贫的日子,让多年积压下来的东西不能完全中和与消耗掉而产生的另一种无奈的释 放。"²

1984年10月开幕的第六届全国美展与1985年举办的"前进中的中国青年美展"是1978年提出思想解放至1984年"清除精神污染"结束后所出现的两个备受瞩目的大型展览。这两个全国性展览、围绕着这两个展览所产生的一系列讨论,以及同时期发生的相关事件,无形之中在中年、老年艺术家与青年艺术家的不同创作方案之间撕开了一道裂痕。尽管从本质上而言,它们都生发于同一个形式解放的思想渊源。年长的艺术家,以"文革"为鉴,珍视新时期自由自主开展形式探索与表达多元个体主张的可能性,倾向于从中国自身的文化脉络中激活可以被运用的因素,埋头苦干。"文革"结束后人校并在此时逐渐崭露头角的年

"I always think dusk causes a sadness in people and that the night is deeply mysterious. Looking back to my childhood, it had a special significance to me and it seemed to imply an overpowering yet indefinable melancholic feeling. Furthermore, there is an immense sense of the 'unknown' – with everything seemingly hidden along with their unrevealed possibilities. Dusk turns into something that captivates us because of this unknowable feeling. This is precisely the reason why issues relating to expressions of this 'mystery' continue to captivate me."

Duan Zhengqu

In order to understand Duan Zhengqu and the path taken in his work, we must first return to the mid-1980s, a formative period where the outlines of Chinese contemporary art, its discourse and value judgements intersect together. At the same time, it is this very historical context that also provided a vital backdrop for the artist as he formulated a unique way of making work. Duan Zhengqu had recently graduated from the Oil Painting Department at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, and voluntarily decided against the opportunity to stay there in favor of returning home to work at the Zhengzhou Painting Academy, Reflecting on his creative state during this time, Duan Zhengqu wrote:

The New Wave spreads wave-by-wave to even the local cities such as Zhengzhou. It is not a hard wave as such, but a soft wave that drops and seeps into the easy life here. Perhaps due to my own sense of self-importance, my fantasies never seem to match up with my life. It is hard staying with something mediocre and far more difficult sticking with this new wave, even if we are at the tail-end of its lively stage. But there are actions of mine that resonate to this New Wave and other actions that have no relevance at all. Like when I use a big bucket to splash paint into so-called "abstract" work; or fiddle with some materials to create so-called "installation" work; or apply some concepts to my drawings to create "avant-garde" work, etc.. Out of this placid state that surrounds me, there is something hard to put your finger on in regards to these so-called works made today – they also work as a cathartic release to me.

Amongst the sounding of people's reactions to these works and of my own minor acts of resistance to this – and due to this poor life where these issues have been going on now for years and accumulated to a point I can no longer counteract nor make them go away entirely with – it is this situation that gives rise to another helplessness and form of release to me. ²

- ^[1] Duan Zhengqu, "Living Colors: Conversation Between Yin Shuangxi and Duan Zhengqu", Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu [M]. (Chengdu: Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts Publication, 2016), p.291.
- ^[2] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu (Chengdu: Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts Publication, 2016), p.86–87.

^[2] 段正渠,《花园村艺话: 段正渠》,第86-87页.



红崖圪岔山曲曲 1989 布面油画 140×150 厘米

Folk Songs from Red Rock 1989 Oil on canvas 140×150cm

> 轻艺术家,热情迎接改革开放后涌现出的多种推介西方艺术与哲学思潮的出版物和言论,过于简单地 选择将"观念"作为甄别当代艺术的唯一标志,将形式探索视为脱离现实的形式主义,将艺术中回到 中国文化脉络的呼吁和探索视为守旧,甚至一刀切地认为形式和艺术语言实验是保守学院派的选择。

> 由于仍然受制于"清除精神污染"的余威,第六届全国美展展出的作品中虽然不乏老年、中年艺术家在艺术语言内部的悄然变法,但总体而言,官方意识形态仍主导着参展作品的甄选,导致了大部分人选作品的题材与样式有所趋同,仍然遵循着现实主义创作方法的大原则,作品也都来源于生活,反映生活。'在刚刚毕业或尚在校就读的年轻学于眼中,第六届全国美展是官方意识形态对于艺术进行持续干预和干扰的有力例证。不到一年时间,"前进中的中国青年美展"开幕,同时期从各个主要的艺术院校涌现出的毕业创作,以及全国各地年轻艺术家纷纷成立的小组,将新一代的青年创作者集体推到了时代的前沿。这一时期,《美术》杂志更换主编,由积极推动现代艺术的批评家邵大箴掌舵;《中国美术报》、《美术思潮》创立,《江苏画刊》调整办刊方向,纷纷将新潮美术作为一个推介的重点。与此同时,新潮美术的主要倡议者和参与者在推动新潮的过程中遭遇到了一些政治与艺术体制的阻碍,

The 6th National Fine Art Exhibition, which opened in October 1984, and the Chinese Youth Art in Progress Exhibition, which was held in 1985, were two large-scale high profile exhibitions that emerged after the "Eliminate Spiritual Pollution" ended in 1984, which itself was the culmination of an "ideological liberation" first put forward in 1978. A series of discussions were centered not only on these two national exhibitions, but also on many of the related events from the same period, which tore open the once invisible cracks that lay between middle-age to more senior artists, younger artists, as well as the different models they used to work under. Essentially with all of these artists, they in fact shared the same ideological origins and developed out of the same form that offered their emancipation. Taking the Cultural Revolution as a reference, the senior artists tended towards affirming and opening up the myriad possibilities of individuality heralded by a new era of free and autonomous formal exploration. They tended to be more inclined towards throwing themselves into a search within the underlying elements of China's own cultural context in order to "activate" them once again. With the young artists who entered into education after the Cultural Revolution, the more adept members who gradually emerged out of this group were enthusiastically more receptive to the large influx of publications, opinions and wave of artistic and philosophical thought, which entered into China from the West after the Reform and Opening period. They simply chose to favor the "idea" as the sole indicator in discerning contemporary art as a formal exploration: using this to separate themselves from the constraints of realist formalism; circumnavigating the old-fashioned calls from conservative factions to return art back to their Chinese cultural roots; and also the one-size-fits-all formal experiments and artistic language officially "chosen" by the conservative academy.

Although there was a group of senior and middle-age artists who were subversive to these rules through a discreet artistic language internalized within the works on display at the 6th National Fine Art Exhibition, overall the official ideology still remained as the dominant criteria for the participating artists due to the residing influence of the "Eliminate Spiritual Pollution" political campaign. This led to a situation where a convergence of various themes and styles occurred within many of the works that entered into the exhibition.3 Many of the works persisted to follow the principles and techniques of realism, or they derived themselves from or reflected upon the substance of life itself. In the eyes of the young students who were either graduated or only recently enrolled into the school, the 6th National Fine Art Exhibition was a dominant example of a sustained intervention and interference by the official ideology into the field of art. Less than a year later, the Chinese Youth Art in Progress exhibition also opened. At the same time, graduate works emerged from various major art academies and groups of young artists from across the country who would go on to establish their own art collectives one after another, bringing to the forefront a new era underlined by a youthful new generation of trailblazers. During this period, the magazine "Art" changed its editor-in-chief and the critic Shao Dazhen arrived at its helm to actively steer it towards the promotion of modern art. "Art News of China" and "The Trend of Art Thoughts" were newly established, while the "Jiangsu Pictorial" revised the direction of its magazine structure - each of these publications worked to successively promote the New Wave as its main goal in art. Meanwhile, the proponents and participants of the New Wave also began to encounter political challenges from the art system, which was perceived as being possessed by a conservative force that lay internally within the system itself. Due to this dynamic, a tension began to develop between the New Wave and the official art system, which happened despite the fact that the New Wave movement itself had from the beginning, emerged out of this very system. This tension between the conservative forces within the official art system gradually led to a blurred boundary between the

^[3] Chen Zui, "From a Perspective of Form, How I See Oil Peinting in China After the Sixth National Fine Art Exhibition", A Discussion on Oil Painting, Liu Yushan, Chen Lvsheng, ed [M]. (Beijing: People's Fine Arts Publishing House, 1993), p.279.

門除醇,从形式角度看六届全 国美展兼读中国油画向何处去 之我见,刘玉山、陈履生编。《油 画讨论集》[M]. 北京:人民美 未出版社,1993,第279 页.







英雄远去(组画之一、二、三) 1994 布面油画

The Hero Departs for Far Away No.1 \
No.2 \ No.3 |
1994 |
Oil on canvas |
130x160cm

H 段正渠,《花园村艺话: 段正渠》,第52页.

^[5] 同上,第53页.

[6] 同 上 第 56 百

而这些阻碍都被视为是艺术体制内的保守力量在作祟,因而使得新潮美术与官方艺术体制之间形成了 一种紧张关系,尽管新潮美术至始至终都是在这样一个艺术体制内发生的。这种与官方艺术体制内的 保守力量之间的紧张感,逐渐使新潮美术获得一种模糊的边界,而且在争论与摩擦中放大了彼此的对 立感,甚至成为彼此之间僵硬的分界线。

1984年 4 月,为迎接第六届全国美展,段正渠被省美协抽出集体创作三个月,完成油画作品《午休》和《新的视野》。前者被选送全国美展,结果落选;《新的视野》后被省美协选送"前进中的中国青年美展",也没被选中。从在校到毕业后几年的时光里,段正渠一直在摸索真正"属于自己"的作品。人校后,针对自己薄弱的素描基础,他着重加强练习,同时刻苦专研与临摹学校图书馆所能借阅到的画册。夏加尔、卢奥、卢梭等,都是段正渠在学校通过画册看到的艺术家。"我一会学表现派,一会画怀斯,一会画达利和玛格丽特的超现实,天天都在变着画,实在想不出画什么时,就对着镜子画自画像,或根据电视画记忆画和想象画。""在阅读上,相比哲学、美学方面的书籍,段正渠更偏爱西方现代主义文学,"买了荒诞派戏剧、意识流的小说、黑色幽默……读了福克纳、索尔·贝娄、罗布·格里耶、玛格丽特·杜拉斯、劳伦斯、卡夫卡、加西亚·马尔克斯等人的不少作品"。5

1982年,即毕业的前一年,段正渠曾到过北京,参观了当时在中国美术馆举行的德意志共和国表现主义油画展览。在准备毕业创作时,段正渠回到老家偃师,每天到县城周边的乡村转悠,选庙会、牲口市场,置身于这些他所熟悉的人、语言和活生生的生活方式之中。他意识到自己在学校里画的玛格丽特式的东西与他所信任的现实的差距,这促使他生平第一次真正具体地思考了生活和艺术的关系,并选择要在创作中"画出出自这块土地的感受……往'土'里画。""他渴望以传统的绘画语言画自己熟悉的东西。这种渴望也促使他在回学校后借阅了不少中国古代壁画资料,既有敦煌壁画,也有和林格尔汉墓壁画。这些学习与观展的积累和思考都揉进了他的毕业创作里。他画了两幅画,其中一幅是菜市场,用了苏联画家用的"闪光法";另一幅画的是骡马市场,采用了和林格尔汉墓壁画平面化的风格,背景是平涂的土色,画面采用散点透视,写意般地随意勾出一个一个农民,散落在画面上。这些人物大部分出自下乡时的速写,相互之间没有情节上的联系,但却将他们刻画得彼此之间啊盼照应,以构成画面的整体感

段正渠此时的艺术探索,其驱动力在于对仅仅复刻西方现代油画样式的不满足,他一方面尝试在表现 性绘画、超现实主义绘画和中国古代壁画中探求形式资源,一方面从自己熟知的乡土世界里挖棚描墓 New Wave art, and in this way, the arguments and frictions resulted in a greater polarization, coming to the point of eventually turning into a rigid divide between the two sides.

In April 1984, Duan Zhengqu was selected by the provincial art association to complete within three months the oil paintings Noon Break and New Horizon in order to inaugurate the opening of the 6th National Fine Art Exhibition. The former work was selected for the National Fine Art Exhibition, however, it was unsuccessful in entering the exhibition. After this work, New Horizon was selected by the art association for the Chinese Youth Art in Progress exhibition and was also not selected in the final list of works. From his time at school to the years after graduation, Duan Zhenggu had been in continual pursuit of a work that he calls "belonging to himself". After entering school, he focused on improving the fundamentals of his sketching ability, which he considered as his weakness. At the same time, he also turned towards assiduously studying all the books he could borrow from the school library in order to imitate and learn from these drawings. For example, Chagall, Rouault and Rousseau were some of the artists Duan Zhengqu studied using the books he found in the school library. "At certain moments I would study expressionism, then to the style of Wyeth, or I might paint the surrealism of Dali and Magritte, every day I would switch between different painting styles. Whenever I couldn't think of anything to paint, I would either look at the mirror to paint a self-portrait or follow what was happening on the television to paint either from memory or something imaginary." 4 In terms of reading and in comparison to the books on philosophy or aesthetics, Duan Zhenggu had a penchant for modernist literature found in the West. "I would buy absurdist plays, stream of consciousness novels, black comedies... and also read books by William Faulkner, Saul Bellow, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Margaret Duras, D.H. Lawrence, Franz Kafka, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and others."5

In 1982, Duan Zhengqu visited Beijing a year before his graduation to see the exhibition *Expressionist Oil Paintings* from East Germany held at the National Art Museum of China. While preparing for his graduation, Duan Zhengqu returned to his hometown in Yanshi County and everyday would wander around the villages surrounding the county. He would look at the temple fairs, animal markets and put himself among the people, language, and ways of living he was most familiar with. He became aware of the gap between the Magritte-style things he painted at school in relation to the reality that he trusted the most, which compelled him to think for the first time in his life the relationship between life and art. He had therefore decided upon what should be the subject of his work, which was that his paintings should come from his experience of this land – to "paint towards the land"⁶. He was eager to paint the things familiar to him by using a traditional language. This eagerness also prompted him to return and borrow a number of books from his school related to ancient Chinese murals, including those at Dunhuang, and the Eastern Han Mural Tombs

- [4] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu,
- ^[5] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu, p.53.
- ^[6] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu, p.56.



英雄远去(组画之四) 1994 布面油画 130×160 厘米

The Hero Departs for Far Away No.4 1994 Oil on canvas 130×160cm

的对象,并尝试在这两者间建立贴切的连接方式。这样的尝试不管在毕业创作的展览上,或者在被送往第六届全国美展和"前进中的全国青年美展"的选拔中,都未能立即脱颖而出。他既缺乏第六届全国美展中所普遍存在的现实主义倾向,也缺乏"前进中的全国青年美展"中大多数作品所具有的观念意识和对于现实问题的指向。

直至1979年上大学之前,段正渠的生活轨迹始终没离开过生他养他的农村。中原农村的风貌人情令他感到天然的亲近。在他的认知中,这是一种真实的化身。对于段正渠而言,真实感是让他在创作中感到踏实的前提,是一种落脚点,也是他始终在创作中关切关照的问题所在。他所寻求的真实不是事实,也不是现实主义对于现实的忠实,而是外部世界中可以进入他内心、成为他自己内部世界的那些方面:乡村的农舍、家庭、集市、小径、谷仓、山脉、田野、游戏、节日、仪式,以及农民的全部生活旅程。这些他成长于其中的景象一直对他有着巨大的吸引力,叩击着他的心扉,是他孜孜不倦作画的对象。

在批评第六届全国美展与盛赞"前进中的中国青年美展"的声音为青年艺术家们勾勒出了一个以"观念"和"思想性"为要旨的创作指南,这个时候,段正渠也踏上进一步寻找自己内心世界的真实之路。"河南于我太过熟近……上学远到了广州,却反感着南方的花红柳绿……这时不知是谁就提起了北方……一会儿话题就粘上了陕北。"7对于段正渠而言,"这时的'陕北'和其他任何一处一样,只不过是个陌生的可以任意想象的地名而已。"8

门段正渠,《花园村艺话: 段正渠》,第81页.

^图同上,第83页.

in Horinger. The thoughts he developed during these studies were then incorporated into his graduation work. He created two paintings, one of which was a vegetable market, which adopted the "flash technique" often employed by Soviet painting; the other painting depicted a market of horses and mules, which incorporated the flatness of Horinger murals, where a background is painted using flat earth colors and the composition is created by using a scattered perspective. A free-hand form evokes the figure of a farmer, which dispersed itself across the scene. These figures come from quick sketches made during his frequent trips to the countryside and between them there is no overall narrative that connects them together. However, the gaze of these different figures appears to correlate to one another in order to lend an overall sense of completeness to the entire picture.

Duan Zhengqu's artistic explorations were driven by his dissatisfaction of never truly being fully satisfied with merely reproducing styles related to Western modernism. On the one hand, he had attempted to explore the formal capacities of expressionism, surrealism, and ancient Chinese mural painting. Whilst another side of his work came from unearthing the portrayal of familiar objects from the local milieu of his surroundings. Elaborating on this further, he also sought to establish a method of closely joining these two facets together within his work. Whether it was with the works included for his graduation exhibition or with the works selected for the submissions to both the δ^{th} *National Fine Art Exhibition* and the *Chinese Youth Art in Progress* exhibition – his achievements were not immediately recognized. His work lacked the realism tendency that was widespread and prevalent throughout the δ^{th} *National Fine Art Exhibition*, and it also lacked the overt conceptual consciousness or the penchant for social issues that was predominant with the majority of works included in *Chinese Youth Art in Progress*.

Since the beginning of his life, Duan Zhengqu was raised in the countryside and his trajectory never left its confines until he entered college in 1979. He was naturally at ease with the friendly disposition of the Central Plains way of life in the countryside. In his view, this way of life is the embodiment of truth itself. For Duan Zhengqu, this sense of authenticity is the premise that gives him the steady ground to create. It is a kind of foothold and it is what he cares for and concerns himself with in the majority of his work. The truth he looks for is not purely factual nor is it the kind of faithfulness to reality as espoused by the genre of realism. Rather, it is related to how aspects of the outside world can be incorporated within his heart in order to become part of his own internal world: rural farmhouses, households, markets, trails, barns, mountain ranges, fields, games, festivals, ceremonies, and the entire life journey of a peasant. These are the scenes he grew up with, which have always fascinated him, shaking him through to his soul, and it has been the enduring object of his indefatigable will to paint.

In criticizing the 6th National Fine Art Exhibition, while at the same time praising Chinese Youth Art in Progress, the young artists had also delineated a guideline to focus on concepts and criticality. It was during this time that Duan Zhengqu also embarked on a search of his own to pursue the idea of truth based on his own internal world. "Henan is a place that I was too familiar with... so I went to school far away in Guangzhou, but I was averse to the over-the-top lushness and bright colors in the South. I'm not sure who brought it up to me about the North during this time... but the topic soon stuck to Shaanbei for a while." ⁷ For Duan Zhengqu at the time, "Shaanbei" was like any other



大鱼之三 2006 布面油画 160×120 厘米

Big Fish No.3 2006 Oil on canvas 160x120cm 改革开放以来,西方现代艺术与思潮的涌人既带来了崭新的艺术样式、创作方案和思想源泉,也再次 驱使一些创作者产生了向内看的强烈欲望和诉求,并重新思考中国文化主体的问题。和传统文化一样, 陕北也更多地成了许多艺术家、作家与电影人辨析自己文化本体的一个投射体和创作源头,是一个内 涵丰富的文化符号。陕北是陕西北部的简称,包括了榆林市和延安市,是革命老区。它位于黄土高原 中心,具有独特的地貌,在中生代基岩所构成的古地形基础上覆盖新生代红土和很厚的黄土层,地表 经过流水切削和土壤侵蚀而形成塬、梁、峁、沟、塬等地貌类型。

80年代中期时,段正渠已在书刊上看到驻扎陕西画家蔡亮、张自藏等自50年代以来关于陕北的画作,也在《美术》杂志上看到尚扬在陕北的油画,并在武汉从尚扬的家中借了一大卷画在高丽纸上的油画回去细细地看。当时常见的对于陕北的文字描写,充满了"大漠""边寨""古道长风""金戈铁马"等意象。电影里也常常借用陕北的苍凉作为背景,例如陈凯歌的力作《黄土地》(1984年),讲述的就是发生在陕北农村的故事。段正渠去陕北的另一个动力来自对当时某种流行倾向的反思。他在第六届、第七届美展里看到不少只注重手法、充满装饰和媚俗意味的作品,对于那些风格很细的、画得像塑料似的作品,段正渠有一种抵触的心理,也从而转向去陕北寻找那种苍劲、厚重的感觉。

1987年3月,段正渠与艺术家好友段建伟、刘大洪一起去陕北写生,从山西一路辗转到延安、绥德,在绥德画油画写生两天,最后在米脂圆则沟住下。他一星期内画了油画风景习作四十余幅;白天画画,晚上和老乡喝酒唱酿曲儿。1988年,段正渠第二次去到陕北的米脂、榆林、佳县、神木、府谷等地,历时半月。他在窑洞里面住了一个多星期,听农民唱歌、喝酒。次年2月,他根据记忆,将这幅历历在目的场景画进了《红崖圪岔山曲曲》里。在这幅颇受卢奥影响的画作中,段正渠并没有借助任何照片或现场写生,仅仅依靠在画布上不断地推敲构图,通过想象进行编排而构成人物组像,显示出驾驭群像和复杂构图的非凡能力,也顺利地人选第七届全国美展,并获铜牌奖。这让艺术家备受鼓舞。早在陕北听歌时,他就肯定了自己使用卢奥的方法来表现陕北的决定。"卢奥是艰辛苦难的代言,陕北有艰辛苦难,但那些艰辛的人对苦难是另一个态度。""段正渠佩服陕北人从这个苦难上生发出的从容与力量,与他个人的性格和审美趣味产生契合,这种发现让他内心洋溢着冲动。受文艺复兴早期的宗教人物组合的启发,段正渠以浪漫主义的手法在画面中表现人物群像,通过类似的构图方式,突出人物间的冲突感。在他的画中,有时画面上塑造的人物形象比较多;有时画累了,也会出现只画了一、两个人物的画面,经常穿插着画。他所在窑的并不是情节,而是把情绪和状态恰到好处地表现出来。

strange name of a place that could have been anywhere.8

Since the Reform and Opening-up policies, there has been an influx of western modern art and waves of thought that have introduced new artistic styles, models of working and resources for new ways of thinking. This situation prompted some practitioners with a strong desire to look inward once again for answers and also to rethink issues more broadly in relation to Chinese culture as a whole. Similarly to traditional culture, Shaanbei has become a fertile place for many artists, writers and filmmakers to base their work on as well as being the ground to distinguish themselves from others. It is a place rich in cultural symbolism and meaning. Shaanbei stands for the northwestern part of Shaanxi, which includes the old revolutionary domains such as Yulin City and Yan'an City. The area is situated at the center of the Loess Plateau and has many unique geological characteristics. It has layers of red soil with thick yellow ground soil from the Cenozoic period that covers an ancient terrain of Mesozoic bedrock. Caused by the flow of water, cuts into the surface and the erosion of soil together give form to topographical features such as the plateaus, ridges, mounds and ravines.

By the mid-1980s, Duan Zhengqu had already discovered through publications the paintings of Shaanxi based artists such as Cai Liang and Zhang Ziwei who have been using Shaanbei as a subject for their work since the 50s. This also includes the oil paintings on Shaanbei by Shang Yang, which were featured in the Art magazine. He then traveled to Wuhan, visiting Shang Yang's house in order to borrow and study a large oil painting by the artist on a scroll of Korean paper. At the time, the common characteristic often described in texts about Shaanbei would be filled with imagery of the desert, frontier villages, "winds blowing on a long ancient path", or "shining spears and armored horses". Often films of this time also used the desolate landscapes of Shaanbei as a backdrop. For example, with the masterpiece by Chen Kaige's Yellow Land (1984) which tells a story based on the rural ramparts in this region. This was in fact another reason that drove Duan Zhengqu to this area, which was to reflect on the prevailing tendencies of the time. During the 6th and 7th edition of the Fine Art Exhibition shows, he observed how the majority of works seemed only to pay attention towards technique or were crowded with ornamental flourishes and kitsch imagery. Duan Zhengqu had conflicted views towards the works on view lavished with a plastic-like highly technical style - for he also had turned to Shaanbei for imagery and a bold feeling for his work too.

In March 1987, Duan Zhengqu with his friends Duan Jianwei and Liu Dahong together undertook a trip to Shaanbei to make sketches, and from there they wandered to Yan'an and Suide County. They spent two days in Suide County to create sketches and oil paintings, and finally settled in the Yuanze valleys in Mizhi County, Yulin. In one week,

p.81.

Duan Zhengqu,
Huayuan Village Art
Talk: Duan Zhengqu,

^[8] Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu, p.83.



黄河传说之四 2008 布面油画 130×180 厘米

Yellow River Folklore No.4 2008 Oil on canvas

1990年10月,段正渠与段建伟结伴到中央美术学院画廊签订画展协议;次年9月15日,"段正渠段建伟油画展"如期在中央美术学院画廊开幕,每人展出作品二十幅。段正渠展出的全部都来自陕北写生和考察后的创作。展览会上收获的肯定是重要的。1988年召开黄山会议时,段正渠周围的朋友曾提议一起去,他没有动心去追寻同代人所热衷的议题与潮流。那次会议建立在1985年以来一系列活动的基础上,继续推动当时一部分人所认知的"现当代艺术",使其被更广泛地传播与呈现,而这也是1989年现代艺术大展的重要前奏之一。换句话说,那是当时的一股显性的新生力量,具有极大的向心力和排他力。受到内心指引,段正渠并不满足于当时仅仅从西方现代艺术里汲取能量的状态,而是执着于寻找自己感受的标志。此时,陕北成为段正渠用自己的心灵情感去摄取的外部世界,黄土高原地势高亢、河谷深切、谷坡陡峭、山势虢缓低矮,生活在这里的人们坚毅、朴实、豪放、热烈,这些都在他的内心构成另一个世界。在这个世界里,不仅有外界世界的色彩、形态和声音,还包含着艺术家的情趣爱好、喜怒哀乐等,从而具有了许多的表现形式。

"段正渠段建伟油画展"在中央美术学院举行,而这里正是 1990 年以来出现的"新生代"艺术的重要阵地。1990 年初至 1991 年 9 月,从中央美术学院画廊的一系列展览到北京历史博物馆里的"新生代艺术展",再到北京当代美术馆的"新形象绘画艺术展",伴随着同一时期一些批评家所发表的观察和评论文章,构成了在这个时期比较突出的一个艺术现象:主要以中央美术学院的毕业生为创作主体,作品倾向于对于身边普通的人、事和场景进行细微、平实的描述和再现,在技法上也有更考究的

he painted in excess of more than forty oil landscapes; during the day, he painted and in the evening he spent with locals drinking and singing love songs. In 1988, Duan Zhenggu went on his second trip that lasted for half a month to Shaanbei as he returned to Yulin prefecture to visit places such as Mizhi County, Jia County, Shenmu County and Fugu County. While there, for more than one week, he resided in a cave dwelling typical of the Loess Plateau, listened to the folk songs of villagers and drank with them again. In February, the following year, he painted this vivid scene from memory into the work Folk Songs from Red Rock. It is a painting that has a subtle influence taken from Rouault, which Duan Zhenggu executed without reference to any photographs or live sketches. Instead, he relied on the canvas itself to continually work out the composition. Guided by his imagination, the canvas arranged together with the resemblance of different groups of figures, demonstrating an extraordinary ability to evoke complexity in relation to his mastery of capturing likeliness of a group of people within a composition. This time things went smoothly as he was selected into the 7th National Fine Art Exhibition and received the bronze medal for his work, which offered plenty of encouragement to the artist. Since the time when he had first heard the songs while in Shaanbei, he had already made a conscious decision to evoke the methodology of Rouault to capture the essence of this region. "Rouault is a great spokesperson for the hardships and suffering of people. There are hardships that exist for sure in Shaanbei, but for these resilient people, they seemingly have another attitude towards their suffering." Puan Zhengqu particularly admired the calm strength of the people in Shaanbei in the face of this suffering, and this resonated with his own character and aesthetic tastes. Inspired by how religious figures were depicted during the early Renaissance period, Duan Zhenggu used a technique inspired by romanticism to express groups of figures featured within the scenes of his work. By using similar methods to create the composition, he was able to foreground the sense of tension between the different figures. At times, there are a considerable number of figures featured within his canvases. In other moments, perhaps due to fatigue, an interchange might occur, between painting only one or two figures. What he cares about is not the plot, but the ability to perfectly capture an emotional state in just the right way.

In October 1990, Duan Zhengqu accompanied Duan Jianwei as they traveled to the gallery of the Central Academy of Fine Arts to sign an exhibition agreement. On September 15, the following year, the exhibition Art by Duan Zhengqu & Duan Jianwei opened at the museum with the artists exhibiting twenty works each. All of the works by Duan Zhengqu were from sketches largely made during the trips to Shaanbei or observations he made afterwards. The acclaim gathered from this exhibition was significantly important to the artist. When the Huangshan Conference was held in 1988, many of his friends offered to travel to Huangshan with him, yet the artist was not entirely or actively inclined to pursue the topical issues shared by his contemporaries. The meeting was based on events or activities that had happened from 1985 onwards and persisted in promoting the concept of what people recognized as "modern and contemporary art" of the time, and the intention was to disseminate these concepts to become more widespread. Moreover, these events would contribute as an important prelude to the 1989 China/Avant-Garde Exhibition. In other words, it was a dominant new force, with both a vast sense of cohesion as well as exclusivity to this time. Guided by his heart, Duan Zhengqu was not satisfied with drawing only on inspiration derived from Western modern art alone, instead, he was more preoccupied with the search for his own ways of feeling. Shaanbei became for the artist a stimulus to absorb the outside world. Around the breathtaking terrain of the Loess Plateau, there are deep river valleys

^[9]Duan Zhengqu, Huayuan Village Art Talk: Duan Zhengqu, p.110.



北方 1994 布面油画 190×170 厘米

North 1994 Oil on canvas 190×170cm

表现。"新生代"艺术家们主要以各种写实的手法让都市中普通人的日常入画。段正渠却将他的视野转向陕北农村,在画中学习伦勃朗的明暗关系,特别是深色调的运用,接受新表现主义的表现方式,并转化为自己的语言。他从陕北的自然环境以及历史人文中感受到神秘、厚重的气息。随处可见的城墙、古堡、庙宇、节日的灯火、土生土长的信天游,这些承载着历史的苍凉与生活的沉重的印迹深深地吸引着他,也促使他将画面处理得又暗又重,以深色和黑色来传达他所感受到的黄土高原的神秘、不确定性和巨大的生命力。

1991年9月在中央美术学院美术馆的展览,让段正渠明晰并确定了自己前行的方向。在此后的数十年中,段正渠每年过年都去陕北,在那里采风、写生,与老乡们喝酒、交谈、过节,回来后画陕北的人与景,从未间断过。段正渠于80年代开始以农民题材进行创作,同时期的许多艺术家也在进行相似的尝试,但大多数人在90年代都从农民题材转向了更有当代样貌的城市主题。段正渠一如既往地执着于陕北和农民题材,形成了属于他自己的一个有意识的创作方案。他笃信这样的内容使他能充分地观看人与自然的关系,更重要的是,他最核心的注意力在于艺术语言的斟酌。他始终认为技术是画画中最困难的问题,即如何摸索到一种恰如其分的表现方式,形成具有魅力的艺术语言。无论是画人也好,画动物也好,特别是画人物众多的画面时,段正渠在营造画面上的人物关系与布局方面都显示出极强的控制力,充满了感染力,这也形成了他所特有的画面语言,是他工作中一个不

with steep edges, low-lying mountains, and the people persevere there through a simple, unfettered and warm life — a state that is internalized through the construction of other worlds created by the artist. In these worlds, they are not only constituted by the colors, forms, and sounds of the external world, but also through its pleasurable pursuits — something equally appreciated by the artist.

Art by Duan Zhengau & Duan Jianwei was held at Central Academy of Fine Arts and it was an important position since the context of the "new generation art" appeared in 1990. Between the beginning of 1990 to September 1991, a series of exhibitions were organized by Central Academy of Fine Arts, while during the same period the New Generation Art Exhibition was also held at the Beijing Museum of History, and the exhibition of New Figurative Painting at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Beijing. This was followed by the publication of observations and critical reviews by critics, which enabled this phenomenon to become more established. Many of the Central Academy of Fine Arts graduates particularly gravitated towards the ordinary people, as well as the scenes and things surrounding them, often using them as subjects in their work – their techniques often placing particular emphasis in the exploration of expression. With the New Generation artists, they used their techniques to focus on portraying ordinary people from the city in order to integrate everyday life into their work. However, with Duan Zhengqu, he turned his focus towards the rural areas of Shaanbei, whilst combining this with Rembrandt influenced studies of lightness and darkness, especially his use of dark tones, eventually transforming these elements into his own language through a search for a new method of expressionism. There was a profound mystery he could feel through immersing into the natural environment and cultural history of Shaanbei. Across the region with the ramparts, ancient castles, temples, light festivals and the indigenous folk music, all of these things bore the heavy weight of hardship and bleakness of history. This profoundly stirred within the artist the need to paint with a dark black and heavy palette to capture the mystery, the immense vitality and unpredictability of the Loess Plateau.

The exhibition held at the Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum in September 1991 provided for Duan Zhengqu enough conviction to move forward and follow his own direction. From this period onwards, Duan Zhengqu traveled each year during the Chinese New Year to Shaanbei, where he would collect materials, make sketches, drink, converse, and join the festivities with the locals. Upon returning from these trips, he would then paint the people and scenes he encountered there without any interruption. In the 1980s, Duan Zhengqu began to use the theme of peasants within his work. Many of his contemporaries had made similar attempts, but by the 1990s, the majority eventually switch to the appearance of looking more contemporary by focusing on themes related to the urban city. Just as in the past, Duan Zhengqu persevered with his fixation on the subject matter of peasants and the Shaanbei region, and together formulated his own conscious model of working. He shared a film belief in the ability of this theme, which allowed him an ample degree of freedom to fully observe the relationships between man and nature, and most importantly, it also afforded him a medium to focusfully on the fundamental issues related to his artistic language. The artist regards technique to be the most complex issue related to painting. For him, it is an issue of finding just the right way to express the feeling of an object and looking how this correlates to the constitution of a captivating aesthetic language. Whether painting either a figure or an animal, Duan Zhengqu has demonstrated



乡村节日 2013 布面油画 160×200 厘米

Country Festival 2013 Oil on canvas 160×200cm

可忽视的特质。

1989 年之后的中国艺术界经历着自身的裂变,80 年代以来产生的各种思潮与创作取向也越来越显现出僵化的边界。80 年代见证了中国官方的艺术体系在"文革"之后快速重组和复原的一段历程,伴随着这个体系的再次形成,还有属于它自身价值判断体系的形成。进入90 年代以后,一方面,中国社会更加卷入全球化的进程;另一方面,随着国内经济体制改革的推进,国内外艺术市场的力量见长,这两方面加起来,就更加加速了中国艺术领域里对于"当代艺术"的界定。由此所带来的机遇、确认与商机使参与者更加急于指认一种具有国际当代艺术表征的艺术范畴。这在一定程度上形成了一个中国的当代艺术体制,模糊地以在野的态度和立场作为自我指认的标签。在整个90 年代里,这个当代艺术的体制与官方的艺术体制之间充满了紧张感,尽管从事当代艺术创作和写作的艺术家与理论家们绝大多数都出自同一个官方的艺术教育体制。在90 年代,这样的一个当代艺术体制往往将在官方艺术体制内部任职和活跃的艺术家排除在外,尽管活跃于当代艺术体制内的不少艺术家、理论家和批评家们在官方艺术体制内享有编制,并持续得到这个体制所能提供的身份与物质保障,但他们一般不会主动亮出自己的官方身份。虽然自己本无意卷入这种撕裂,段正渠却踏进了官方的艺术体制之中,既成为美协的成员,在画院任职,并从1999 年底开始进入首都师范大学任教。而他的作品也渐渐地淡出了"当代艺术"展示和循环机制。

a deft ability to control these relationships with an inspired arrangement of figures within the canvas – particularly in situations of a composition featuring a large group of characters – it is this adeptness that lends a distinctive language that is one of the most prominent features of his work.

After 1989, the Chinese art world experienced a schism of its own. The divide between various waves of ideas and artistic directions emerging in the 1980s increasingly became more entrenched. The 1980s had witnessed a rapid reorganization and revival of the official art system in China after the Cultural Revolution. This entailed not only a reformation of the system, but also the formation of its own system of values for discerning art. On the other hand, Chinese society eventually entered into a process of alobalization, following its entry into the 1990s, and this happened simultaneously with advancements in reforms related to its domestic economic system. Subsequently, the domestic art market in China gained strength, and combined with these two influential changes, they together expedited the vast speed in which "contemporary art" would subsequently be defined as by the art field in China. This situation brought about many opportunities, forms of validation, and also commercial success, and this contributed to the eagerness in identifying artistic genres, which could be easily categorized and incorporated as a symbol of "international contemporary art". To a certain degree, this ambiguous attitude of self-identification developed into a domestic contemporary art system by devolving the role of a solid official position. Throughout the 1990s, the relationship was filled with tension between the contemporary art system and the official art system – this occurred despite the fact that amongst the artists and theorists engaged with contemporary art practice, many of these writers were originally educated through the official art system. During this decade, the contemporary art system ostracized or excluded many of the artists who held positions or were active within the system. This happened even as many of the artists, theorists and critics benefited from overlaps with the official system. Either through the status granted to them by the system, or in terms of material safeguards-despite this fact, many often chose to downplay their status with the official system. Although he was not active in the schism that occurred, Duan Zhengqu entered into the official art system to become a member of the Fine Arts Association, he also held a position in the painting institute, and began to teach at the Capital Normal University from the end of 1999. Subsequently, his work gradually began to fade from the display mechanisms and circulation of the "contemporary" art world.

Another phenomenon also contributed towards the rupture within the art world in China during the 1990s: principally, the division into different mediums. At the time, for Chinese artists and theorists who were anxious to participate in the global art discourse and exchanges between the art worlds, they regarded the gesture to "replace" the medium of art as one of the most important indicators of new contemporary art. In the face of this self-inflicted anxiety, mediums other than painting such as sculpture, installation, video, new media and conceptual art were considered as the new embodiments of this contemporaneity. The "death of painting" was proclaimed as it was squeezed out from all sides by these new categorizations. Before being able to discern the real meaning of a concept, many people were very close to occupying an autocratic and essential position in relation to the role of conceptualism in contemporary art. Within this context, it was very easy to bypass and much more difficult to receive attention, let alone any form of sustained in-depth discussion, related to the inner workings of painting's language and its practice. This situation



Singing Under the Sun 2014 Oil on canvas 160×230cm



对于90年代中国艺术领域的断裂起到推动作用的还有另一个现象,媒介的分化。当时,在艺术界中急切向往参与全球的艺术交往和交流的中国艺术家和理论家们将媒介的更替、更新作为当代艺术的重要标志之一。在面临一种自我定义的焦虑感时,实践者将绘画以外的雕塑、装置、录像、新媒体和观念艺术等媒介与艺术门类作为当代性的一种表征,生造出架上与架下的区分,甚至一度盛传"架上绘画的死亡"。在未能辨明观念性的真实意涵之前,人们就已经在当代艺术中为观念性建立了一种近乎专制性和绝对化的位置。在这种思潮之中,从事绘画创作,更别说在绘画语言内部的深入探索与实践了,都更难得到应有的关注与讨论。面对这种分流,从90年代中后期直至21世纪,段正渠也曾几次尝试改变自己的创作,试图来与中国艺术领域中所谓的当代艺术的创作轨迹对接。但他始终还是主要在全国性美展、官方和学院系统内施展他的艺术才能。

级观段正渠90年代以来的创作,我们主要可以从三个方面来粗略地勾勒他的轨迹。一条线索是他在90年代中期前后开启的全景式风景画。这些画作色调灰暗,气势恢宏,充满了视觉的张力,其中,最显著的要数《英雄远去》这一组创作于1994年的油画。此时正值壮年的艺术家创作出这些充满活力的作品,在官方艺术疲软的氛围里无异于一般新鲜空气,格外令人瞩目。第二条贯穿段正渠创作体系的线索是第一类创作的延展。在第二条线索中,作品的画面以人与自然作为叙事内容,用庭幻现实主义的手法来进行刻画,夸张的人物造型和厚重饱满的色彩使画面充满矛盾、荒诞与戏剧感,而整个基调依然是充满激荡的。比如在《大鱼》(2006)、《黄河传说》(2006)这两个系列作品中不断出现的超大鲤鱼。第三条比较显性的线索是以群体的人的活动作为刻画的对象,往往是基于现实生活所

lasted from the mid-1990s to the 2000s, leading Duan Zhengqu to try several times to change his own work as sought to bridge the trajectory between Chinese art and the so-called contemporary art field. Despite this, he continued throughout this time to apply his artistic talent to national art exhibitions within both the official and academic systems.

Throughout the works created by Duan Zhengqu since the 1990s, we can outline a rough trajectory divided into three basic themes. The first theme includes the beginning of his panoramic landscapes, which approximately begin in the mid-90s. This is a group of paintings defined by a subdued palette, filled with grandeur and a visual tension to them. An outstanding work from this series is the painting *The Hero Departs for Far Away* (1994), a work made with a lively sense of an artist at the prime of his career, which received critical acclaim for a fresh perspective within an otherwise stale atmosphere defined the official art system of the time. The second theme extends from the ideas of the first theme, which foregrounds the relationship between man and nature, and is used as a narrative device that establishes the imagery within his work. He employs tropes characteristic of magical realism to portray exaggerated figures shaped by thick colors that fill the composition with contradictions, the implausible, and a theatricality – this sets the entire tone for the work, which is filled with a sense of delirium. Take the example of the two works *Big Fish* (2006) and *Yellow River Folklore* (2006), where both series of work feature a gigantic carp. The third theme is distinguishable for its methods of using group activities as an object of study and in many cases, looking into activities involving a scene, where the imagination manifests into real life. Within these canvases, he employs geometric, compositional forms to lend a sense of stability to the image.

When giving shape to the figures featured within his paintings, he borrows methods taken from Balthus' depiction of characters, particular in relation to how the artist manages to draw out and exaggerate the symbolic qualities, as well as awkward features found in people. For example, either in terms of their movement and expressions, or perhaps due to the theatricality of their gestures – in this way, he is able to form his own unique qualities. The construction of the entire image is set by either the dark night or a backdrop of dark colors. This enhances the staged or ritualistic quality to the work, which in turn foregrounds the dissonance between the different distances one can take in relation to reality. These characteristics are especially noticeable in the works *North* (1994), *Country Festival* (2013) and *Singing Under the Sun* (2014).

From 2010 onwards, Duan Zhengqu begins to display once again an inclination towards presenting more landscapes within his work. This is especially apparent in the recent works, where he continues to build up a dusky atmosphere. However, with the newer series, he uses tempera to create his paintings. Having been influenced by this new material, a series of fine strokes are used to create the image and to soothe onto the canvas, the ambience of the work. In this way, tempera retains certain characteristics, giving a unique luster to the work and causing the dark colors to appear more transparent, standing in stark contrast to the grand landscapes of the 1990s. For example, in *A View of the Great Wall* (2017) there is the impression of an expansive and soothing visual space. This technique has naturally also transformed both his approach to using oil painting or water color, such as *A View of the Great Wall*, but also another work *Forest* (2018). His experience working with tempera has had a perceptible influence on his approach to oil

想象出的活动场景。在这些画面中,他运用几何学的构图方式,使画面具有稳定感。在人物的造型上,他既借用巴尔蒂斯在画面里刻画人物的方法,通过几何拙味的人物造型赋予人物符号化的特征,又将人物动作和神态夸张和戏剧化,从而使其形成自身的特质。他对整个画面的构筑,是以黑夜或暗、深色调的背景来强化场景的仪式感和舞台感,突出与现实之间的间离。这些特质在《北方》(1994)、《乡村节日》(2013)、《天底下唱歌》(2014)等作品中都令人惊叹。

步人 2010 年以后,段正渠的作品中又出现了更多偏重于风景的创作。特别是就其近作而言,他在画面中依然营造着一种昏暗的氛围,但却运用了新的材料坦培拉来作画。受材料改变的影响,他在画面上用笔细密,气氛舒缓。坦培拉这样一种特殊的材料所产生的特殊的光泽,让画面中的暗色显得更加透明,与他于90 年代创作的气势恢宏和澎湃的风景形成了鲜明的对比,比如《望长城》(2017)这幅作品,带给人一种更为舒缓宽阔的视觉观感。而这个手法的转变也自然地运用到他在油画和水彩画的创作之中,比如在2017 年的油画《北望长城》和2018 年的油画《山林》中,可以看到艺术家将用坦培拉画画的经验带进油画创作里,使笔触更加密集、柔顺。近期的新作中也继续沿用了魔幻现实主义的手法,但在内容上更加剥离了现实感,突显了其中荒诞与神秘的气质。在《惊蛰》(2016)、《麻黄梁》(2018)等作品中,我们都看到了这个鲜明的转变。

[11] 泰戈尔、《文学思想家》. 倪 培耕等译、《生活的回忆——泰 戈尔经典散文选》[M]. 北京: 华 夏出版社, 2008, 第54页.

今天,更加强大的力量打破了原有的格局,强迫人们正视现实的本质,事实上,所谓的当代艺术体制与官方艺术体制之间的阻隔,可以说只是一种虚设。不少身着当代艺术外衣的实践者,在面临机会与权力时毫不迟疑地投入他们原本设定为批判对象的官方体制;再聪明的自圆其说,也无法阻止有关中国当代艺术自我标榜的在野性和独立性的面具被揭穿。也许,这是一个让所有事情都回到原点的契机。脱离了那些不实的说辞,艺术也许有机会重返自身,让我们在一个更加宽广的视野中来审视它的内部世界。泰戈尔曾在一篇《文学思想家》的文章中这样写道:人们应该在无限时代的系列观察中检验人的精神的东西——除此以外,没有其他更好的办法来决定精神的产物。"对于段正渠这个个案的研究,提供了这样的一种可能性:它身处现在的时代之中,却有别于那些暂时的、眼前的和狭窄的东西,不取决于现代人的一种观点,它的广度与深度,有可能是一种为现代和未来而存在的具有独立意味的创作。

painting, the brushstrokes are more concentrated, supple, and there is continuation and an expansion of techniques inspired by magical realism, however the reality is stripped back to a far greater degree in these works. The absurdist sense of mystery is visible in *Insects Awaken* (2016) and *Mahuangliang* (2018) where we can also see very clearly this transformation at work.

In this current day, more powerful forces have broken the previous structures to compel people to face the intrinsic nature of reality. In fact, one can say that the boundary separating the contemporary art system and the official system is only illusory. There are many practitioners dressed under the cloak of contemporary art, when faced with certain opportunities and power, who would not hesitate to enjoy the benefits of the official system they previously set out often to criticize and make a stand against. No matter how much spin they attempt to put on, it is impossible to conceal this masquerade of individuality and disruptive form of self-promotion, which occurs within the field of contemporary art. Perhaps this is an opportunity to return everything back to the original point. Without false pretenses, art has an opportunity to return to itself, allowing us to examine its internal world through an inclusive and more wideranging perspective. The Indian poet and writer Tagore in the article "The Literary Thinker" once wrote "that people should examine the spirituality of things in a series of observations within this limitless era – there is no better way to determine the outcomes of a spirit." The case of Duan Zhengqu's research also offers these kinds of possibilities too with a lasting quality that defies the narrow categories and shortsighted gains that defines the mentality in our present era. Neither does this depend entirely on the views of modern people, but for an independent work with a breadth and depth, which exists for both the modern and the future too.

^[80] Rabindranath Tagore, "The Literary Thinker", Memoirs of Life: Selection of Tagore's Classic Prose, trans. Ni Peigeng et al [M]. (Beijing: Huaxia Publishing House, 2008), p.54.

后 记

对我来说, "你好, 黄昏!"是一个重要的展览。

2014年前后,我开始对以往惯用的表现手法和题材内容失去兴趣。我变得烦躁,日复一日地站在画布前,却没有一丁点儿要画的冲动。是哪儿不对了?我不止一次思考这个问题。想起年轻时火一样燃烧的激情,既心塞,又无奈,沮丧极了。

我想我是老了, 画画的事儿可能到此为止了。

对于画画,我自认一直不是个安分的人。从上大学开始,就不停地做着各种尝试;毕业后的整个80年代,把所知的西方现代各种流派几乎模仿了一遍;90年代初,好不容易明确了个人的"风格",但时不时地还会想尝试一下别的东西。这种性格,在艺术创作的过程中势必要承受各种自我修正的折磨。1992,1995,2000·······我都曾因对过往不满足而产生过改变的企图,但最后均由于"不踏实",有顾虑、缺少信心,在一次次尝试、一次次调整、费尽周折之后,基本都又顺路退回到原地——因为那儿"安全"。当时所谓的"成功",无形之中已给自己结了一个坚硬的壳。

2015 年我画了一些纸上作品。刚开始完全是由于几十年养成的"手不失闲"的惯性,没想到画着画着竟收不住了,一直到 2016 年 10 月颈椎出了毛病。纸上作品是断断续续一直在画的,但较长时间地专注于此却是从那时开始。为此,还参与了一个"纸本双个展"的计划,虽然最后展览计划没能实施,但一批纸上作品却积累了下来。我当时想:能不能从纸上找到一些新的可能?

2016年9月,93岁高龄的母亲去世,我永远失去了最亲的人。我从没想到母亲的离去对我会产生那

样大的影响,以至于一直到如今我都像个病人一样,经常独自一人沉浸在伤痛之中暗暗流泪。紧接着,颈椎病严重发作,右臂酸痛麻木,吃饭连筷子都捏不住。对于病,医生说与过度悲伤有关,朋友则认定完全是由于长时间低头画纸本所致。我说不清楚。只知道画画的人一旦没有了手臂,就和死了差不多。这大概是我六十年的人生中最萎靡的一段时光。整整一年时间,画不了画,萎缩着,只能漫无目的地四下游荡,甘肃、河南、新疆、山西、蒙古、西班牙……甚至还去了以前几乎从来不去的南方。

这种状态,持续了整整一年。

2017年11月,病情终于有了好转,虽然手指时常还会麻木,但右手毕竟可以拿笔了。依然是先从纸本人手,内容天马行空,材料则是综合的。

2018年元旦前后,试着画起了坦培拉。画坦培拉的起因,是对文艺复兴早期的湿壁画的喜爱。因为湿壁画不易实现,只好退而转为坦培拉。坦培拉对我来说是陌生的,我想通过对新材料的尝试,改变原来驾轻就熟的技法,因为此时对那些技法几乎深恶痛绝。这是我许多次设想中的一次,也是设想的许多办法中的一种。尽管对材料的掌控极其生湿,但这种陌生的感觉却极其吸引我。这种尝试变得意味深长,使我逐渐看到了新的可能和希望。直到有一天我突然想:我都要六十的人了,还用得着看人眉眼行事吗……我画我的,再也不管别人了。于是,似乎一下子回到了80年代,年轻时的兴奋与冲动回来了,之前的种种禁忌没有了,纠结了多少年之后,突然间茅塞顿开,一下子变得耳目清明起来。再用新的手法和方式画起以前试过或没试过的东西时,开始变得从容而淡定。偏离"专属"的主题,撇下惯用的手法,眼前竟出现了一片新的天地。这天地该是一直都在的,长期以来之所以视而不见,原来是自己被自己遮蔽了。

感谢刘鼎先生为展览所做的细致周密的工作,感谢卢迎华女士百忙中所撰写的长文,感谢魔金石空间 提供的展示机会。由于他们的付出,使我有机会把近年的状态得以真实呈现。目前作品的好坏对我来 说不是最重要的,我感兴趣的是:在经历了无数次犹豫纠结之后,我终于有了勇气和胆量重新开始。

段正渠

Afterword

"Hello, Dusk!" is an important exhibition for myself.

Around 2014, I became disinterested in my usual expression techniques and themes of painting. I was easily irritated, standing in front of the canvas day after day yet found no impulse to draw. "What went wrong?" was a question I pondered more than once at the time, while recalling the burning passion in my youth and often suffocated with depression.

I thought I might just come to the age where my path as a painter met its end.

I have never been settled with painting. Since college I have been working with multiple attempts, and during the entire 80s after my graduation, I imitated almost all schools of Western modern art. When my "personal style" was established after all in the early 90s, I was still constantly tempted to explore alternatives. Such unresting characteristics in me are bound to make myself suffer from all kinds of self-correction throughout artistic creations. In the years 1992, 1995, and 2000, I was on the edge of attempting to evolve due to the dissatisfaction with the status quo. But in the end, because of impetuosity, lack of confidence, or merely too many concerns involved, I always ended up retreated to where I was, for there was "safe". At that time, the so-called "success" had already unknowingly constructed a shell around me.

I painted some works on paper in 2015, at first merely out of an inertia of "not having an idle hand" developed through decades of painting as a routine. But then the momentum became unstoppable, and it was not till October 2016 my painting practices were forced to pause due to my cervical spine problems. I have always been working intermittently on paper, but a concentrated, longitudinal practice launched from then on. To this end, I also participated in a project named "Work on Paper—Duo Solo Exhibition" and accumulated bodies of work even though the final exhibition plan did not land. I thought at the time: could new possibilities open up on paper?

In September 2016, my mother passed away at 93 – I lost my closest bond forever. I had never imagined that my mother's departure would have left such an impact on me, that until now I have been acting like a patient, often immersed in grief sorrows and tearing alone. A serious attack of cervical spondylosis followed immediately, causing numbness in the right arm and making even holding chopsticks challenging. The doctor's diagnosis suggested a result

of excessive sadness, whereas my friends believed the illness was due entirely to prolonged bowing while painting the watercolors. I was never sure, only distinctively knew that a painter without arms was almost equal to a half-dead person. That was probably the most sluggish time in my life for over sixty years. Within that entire year, I could not paint but only wandering aimlessly around: I went to Gansu, Henan, Xinjiang, Shanxi, Mongolia, Spain, and even to the south of China where I hardly ever set foot on.

The state as such lasted for an entire year.

My health condition finally improved in November 2017, and although my fingers still suffered from occasional anesthesia, my right hand, after all, became able to hold painting brushes again. Still, work on paper was where I started: here my imaginary unbound and travels freely within mixed mediums.

Around the beginning of 2018, I initiated explorations on tempera for my obsession with the frescoes of early Renaissance; and while frescos were difficult to realize, I turned to tempera. Although tempera was unfamiliar to me, I would love to embrace new materials and hopefully new techniques, as I had almost developed hatred towards the ones that were so acquainted with me. It was one of the many ways I envisaged in order to change methods of working. Although the effort to control the medium of tempera was arduous, this strangeness deeply fascinated me. Gradually meanings had born out of the attempt, and I would start seeing new possibilities and hopes. But one day I suddenly thought, "I am almost sixty, why should I still act upon others' opinions?" From that point on, I would draw my pictures and no longer care about the rest. Almost instantly the excitements and impulses of the 80s came back to me, and the various taboos and doubts that had been entangling for years vanished altogether. All of a sudden the path opened up and my surroundings became clear-sighted. I could again work with new techniques and methodologies, and try out new directions with a cool piece of mind. Deviating from "exclusive" themes and leaving aside my usual techniques, there appeared a new world – a new world that should have been all the time, but for a long time was blinded by myself.

I would like to thank Mr Liu Ding for his meticulous work in the exhibition, and Ms Carol Yinghua Lu for taking her precious time to provide the long essay. I would also like thank Magician Space in giving me the opportunity to exhibit my work. Owing to their efforts, I was able to present my recent state of working truthfully. Nowadays, quality of work is not the most important to me. What matters now is that after countless hesitations, I finally have the courage to start again.

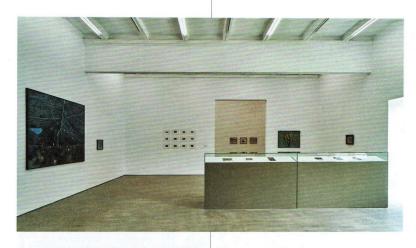
Duan Zhengqu 13 October 2018, in Ordos MAGICIAN SPACE

魔金石空间

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未知之景

你好,黄昏! 中国北京 | 魔金石空间 2018年9月15日—10月20日



(刘希言 | 文) 段正渠有一件人在水前观影的作品《水影》, 岸边的着衣之人望向水中的赤身之影。这可以作为许多画 家会面临的问题来解读,他们常常问询自己对作品的预期 和完成的结果将以怎样的配比存在:是符合预期,再现眼 前之景;还是不及或超出预期,至未知之地。在这件作品中, 段正渠的答案是,岸边的他希望透过绘画这一汪儿水映照 出心中的未知之景。这大概也是段正渠将《水影》作为他 在魔金石空间的回顾型个展"你好,黄昏"的引子的缘故。

展览分为了三个部分,第一部分回溯段正渠二十世纪八十年代开始的风景表现实践,第二部分聚焦他 2016 年前后一组具有神秘气息的纸上作品,第三部分重回风景这个贯穿他全部创作历程的关键词。这三个部分可以从线性的时间线索上联系起来,也可以从萦绕在不同时期作品中的符号化的人物、有意味的线条以及灰暗的色调中联系起来。但更值得注意的是,段正渠在不同时期对陕北风景表现的变化中传递出他怎样去思考关于绘画的答案。

早期的风景是段正渠望向水中的真实样貌,它们是陕北的 热烈、高亢和真实,是《核桃树》里的质朴儿郎和《七月 黄河》等系列草图中结实又具动感的人物群像,段正渠被 这些人和景触动,他描摹他们,再现他们,试图去还原陕北。

但这并不是段正渠想要的答案,一直可控的绘画结果让他 感到厌倦,他想着许多跳出眼前之景的法子,思考通过 绘画是否能映衬出他心中的不可知之景。在 2014 年左右, 段正渠一方面从技法上突破,将之前的厚重油画大笔触转为轻薄的坦培拉小笔触和鲜艳的纸本水彩;另一方面他在绘画内容上也作了新的尝试,从之前对大景的崇敬转向到对大景中小我的表达。这一时期的作品虽然题目还是陕北元素——"凉州""张掖""二分关"等等,但画面转而变得轻快、明亮和趣味起来,最重要的是变得荒诞了。《新生儿》里一个戴着翅膀的孩子宛如天使般降临在鸡羊猪等组成的凡间山头上,《定边》里一棵寻常的树上开出包括人脸猫头鹰等在内的六朵奇妙的"花"。段正渠在这批作品中更关注他个人的感受和想象,画的虽仍是陕北,但却是他赋予了新生命和个体情感的陕北。

这两个部分最终促成了对展览中近期几组大风景作品的理解。2017年的《北望长城》中苍茫天际中的渺小背影仿若奏响了个人对恢弘历史的挽歌,2018年的《山林》里横倒的巨树间几个人影出没其中,恰是黄土掩映下的一出荒诞戏剧。对段正渠来说,它们是基于真实陕北和想象陕北之间的未知之景,寄托着他数十年来对陕北沧桑历史的无限崇敬和对陕北风景人文的深厚感情。

展览现场图,孙诗丨摄,魔金石空间丨图片提供

展评 | Exhibition Reviews

专题 | 段正渠:不可知是视觉和画面上的

陈立

2020年10月23日

本文基于魔金石空间与段正渠近期进行的一次访谈,以及有关段正渠创作的相关著作。文章回溯了段正渠绘画风格形成,陕北和乡土之于他的重要意义,以及近年他在创作上的改变与实践方向。

(文/陈立 魔金石空间研究主管)

1979年,段正渠考入广州美术学院油画系;1983年,他放弃了留校任教,回到河南老家;1984年,段正渠与同学徐坦结伴去陕北,却并未抵达陕北;1987年,段正渠与段建伟、刘大洪一起去陕北写生。此后的数十年里,段正渠每年都会去陕北……

为什么是陕北?"陕北补充了我"

陕北是段正渠绘画中最具标识性的题材。黄土高原的苍凉、磅礴、坚实、庄严,生活在这片土地上的人们质朴、热烈、狂放、沉醉,还有那些在幻想中升腾的大鱼、社火、黄河,都是段正渠取之不尽的灵感来源。段正渠所画的陕北是超越地方感的:它来自现实,但又令人感到陌生,仿佛被绵延至无尽的时间中。具象的陕北背后更多的是想象、神秘与不可知。陕北更像是段正渠个人的精神异乡。

尽管无意于此,段正渠的绘画不断地被官方艺术体制认证和循环。但他所表达的情绪感受,事实上并不属于现实主义的脉络。这些表达既不属于官方系统的革命叙事传统和民俗趣味,同时也不能迎合当代艺术领域中的社会性、官方与个体的对抗视角。我们可以从绘画语言、以及段正渠的经验与感受中,寻找到这些无法被归纳的个体表达。

"同样是乡土,河南对我来说太熟悉了"。童年时期的阅读经验、说书人的江湖故事为段正渠种下的对陕北的联想和期待。陕北对于段正渠而言,是存在于想象中的熟悉,更是陌生而有距离的。"陕北补充了我,但我其实画的还是自己的经历。为什么我就画不了河南?我觉得陕北是有'故事'的。"亲近而神秘的矛盾感受,是段正渠之所以以陕北为题材的缘由。寄托在这一题材上的始终是他对似是而非的好奇,对不可知的敬畏,对不确定性的探索。



红崖圪岔山曲曲, 1989, 布面油画, 140×150cm



节日,1994-1996,布面油画,190×150cm



七月黄河之二,1999,布面油画,140×180cm



英雄远去之四,1994,布面油画,130×160cm



北方, 1994, 布面油画, 190×170cm



乡村节日, 2013, 布面油画, 160×200cm



大鱼之三,2006,布面油画,160×120cm



酒盅, 2011, 布面油画, 130×110cm

表达不重在主题,而是来白干经验

虽然段正渠已经不再画陕北,但是他的绘画对象却从来没有离开过乡土和农民。但是,将其定义为专属"乡土题材"的画家是有失偏颇的。乡土在中国现代绘画的脉络中带有强烈的寻根意识,并逐渐被纳入到官方叙事中,且具有了一定的政治和文化宣导功能。同时,乡土题材的绘画一定程度上反哺着主流的现代化叙事。

段正渠所画的并不是乡土写实,或者准确地说,不是乡土现实。他所关注的是对农村的内在情绪,这片土地上的人的性格、语言、文化,以及背后的精神力量。他对土地和农民心存敬畏,但这并不等同于歌颂。他始终以平等的视角,竭力去感受土地上的生活与精神面貌。因为成长于农村,段正渠对乡土具有天然的情感联结,但作为艺术家他始终告诫自己与生活保持距离。一方面,他把对乡土和农民的敬仰投射在陕北这一陌生之地。也正是因为保有了距离,他才能自由地表达;另一方面,段正渠探索的是如何表达,而不是表现。表达不重在主题,而是来自于经验。画面中所借用的是最为典型的北方风景与农民形象,是一种存留的文化基因和记忆。他所探究的是如何通过绘画语言将其转化为视觉的想象,想象的背后又是怎样的精神力量,它如何能够超越时空、再次被感受和需要?

不可知与不确定

在对话过程中,我始终想知道段正渠所说的"不可知"是什么?他认为"不可知"更多是在视觉与画面上。这也从侧面印证了段正渠的实践更专注于从绘画语言上去表现题材的精神内核。从陕北民歌,再到画陕北生活,后来慢慢就出现了黄河……它并不是预设,而是数十年深耕这片土地的结果。

在广州美术学院学习期间,段正渠受到西方表现主义绘画的影响,南方的风貌也让他当时画面的颜色愈发鲜亮。而当他去到陕北,就发现用这样的用色和绘画方式去画陕北非常不适合,这不是他"印象"里的陕北。"我印象中的陕北不是那样子,它就是单纯的,就是你觉得假定任何颜色都是多余的。"于是,他借鉴了卢奥的方法,来去表达黄土高原的厚重与苍茫,因为这才是最适合他心中陕北的绘画语言。与此同时,段正渠在学校时期就开始钻研中国古代壁画的资料,例如敦煌壁画、林格尔汉墓壁画。他一直尝试将传统绘画语言与西方绘画方法进行融合,从传统中寻找出自这块土地的感受。这也就形成了段正渠的代表风格:画面处理得昏暗、厚重,背景大面积的单色平涂,使用黑色、赭石、熟褐这类限定的单色来表现黄土高原的神秘和不可知,粗旷的笔触渗透出这片土地的强大牛命力。这一绘画风格直接地呈现出段正渠绘画中对精神性的思索,以及强烈而深沉的情感。

再次尝试

"对于画画,我自认一直不是个安分的人。从上大学开始,就不停地做着各种尝试;毕业后的整个八十年代,把所知的西方现代各种流派几乎模仿了一遍;九十年代初,好不容易明确了个人的"风格",但时不时地还会想尝试一下别的东西。这种性格,在艺术创作的过程中势必要承受各种自我修正的折磨。1992,1995,2000……我都曾因对过往不满足而产生过改变的企图,但最后均由于"不踏实",有顾虑、缺少信心,在一次次尝试、一次次调整、费尽周折之后,基本都又顺路退回到原地——因为那儿"安全"。当时所谓的"成功",无形之中已给自己结了一个坚硬的壳。"

后记,《你好,黄昏!——段正渠》 魔金石空间,2019,第135页

从90年代中期开始,段正渠就几次尝试改变,但都没有达到预期。他坦言那几次的尝试突破或改变,始终无法找到支撑。想要抛弃之前寻找到的、相对个人的绘画语言,个人在有意无意之间都会有所顾虑。这关乎着艺术家的心境、创作阶段和现实境况。在段正渠之前的绘画中,我们明确地感受到他对传统、宏大题材的熟稔,画面中涌出的是令人肃然起敬的雄壮力量。而在近年的绘画中,这股力量更像是不断浮出,显现出截然不同的散淡之气。"原来的画面是很崇高、亢奋的。现在就想很散淡,就像散文一样,更淡一点、静一点。这跟年龄和生活体验是有关系的,我现在对事情看得更淡一点。"就像是看同一本书,以前他看的是故事,现在看的是字里行间的意境。

另一个重要原因是他绘画方法改变: 2016年段正渠因肩膀的病痛,无法继续再以之前的绘画方法进行创作,整整一年无法提笔。2017年,他在肩膀逐渐恢复时开始画坦培拉。这延续了段正渠的纸本创作的脉络,更为重要的是他试图以细致的笔触、缓慢的技术限制来磨炼心性。面对同样的题材,段正渠以绘画方法去带动画面的改变。所以大面积的涂色、厚重的质感不再出现在他的画面中,画面的背景显得尤其清透;人物或对象以平铺的方式浮现在一种去除了空间叙事的背景上;人物的姿态微妙而多意,不同人物之间形成了动态关系,却又无明确的情节指向。我们可以暂且将段正渠的尝试描述为一种去情境的、去空间化的绘画方式,它使故事的解读多意,情绪松弛而灵动。而这一绘画语言上的探索,依然是为了使他所想表现的不确定性能够更为广阔。



望长城, 2017, 纸本坦培拉, 32×41cm



麻黄梁, 2018, 纸本水彩、色粉, 100×180cm



桃花, 2020, 布面油画, 50×80cm



天底下歌唱, 2014, 布面油画, 160×230cm



爱情, 2019, 布面油画, 150×200cm

MAGICIAN SPACE 魔 余 石 空 间

坚持自己——段正渠访谈录

文/干顷

红墙艺术 2018.04.08

王顷(以下简称"王"):自1986年至今,你一直以一种饱满、深沉、充满激情的绘画风格,描绘着陕北,描绘着农民,并因此被冠以"乡土画家"的名谓。经历了这个激烈变革时代,你所描绘的陕北和农民亦都发生了很大的变化,但在你的作品中,我感觉你仍旧在试图维护着什么,这让我想起你在1996年的一篇文章中提到"不愿弄丢了自己"。几年过去了,你怎么看待你自己的作品?

段正渠(以下简称"段"):其实自开始画陕北,我就没想画陕北人"真实的"生活。我不想 让画成为生活简单的反映,不想把画画成风俗画。我一直试图把陕北给我的种种感受传达出来,比如 陕北民歌的感觉, 黄土高原的感觉, 黄河的感觉等。如果你深更半夜在陕北的山梁上走过, 如果你站 在寒风里眺望过四下望不到边的层层土山,如果你在陕北听过陕北人唱酸曲儿,你就会知道我为什么 会这么画。那种诘屈拗口的歌词,沙哑明亮的声音用别的方法画就不对。于是我就有了所谓的"风 格"。如果说我的画"激昂,饱满,深沉,充满激情",其实那正是画的陕北民歌给我的感受,我只 不过想把这种感受通过绘画,通过色彩与形象表达出来而已。1986年到1995年,我去陕北许多次, 确实每次都可以感受到许多明显的变化,20世纪80年代去陕北,农民饭都吃不饱,点着煤油灯,炕 上一坐就会染上浑身虱子,现在却是电灯、电话、大哥大的。姑娘们连口红、头油都抹上了。去年去 佳县对岸属山西的一个偏僻的山沟里,急着打电话,手机没信号,老乡把我们领到家里,把箱子打 开,伸手一摸竞从箱底拉出一个崭新的电话来;黄河上古老的渡船都没有了,一桥飞架南北,钢筋水 泥大桥把大河两岸连在了一起。生活变化了,物质变化了,许多作为人非常可贵的东西比如原初的真 实与天然的质朴也正随着消失,我极力搜寻并想维护和留住这种东西,虽然这在别人看来几乎等于寻 梦。梦就梦吧,我并没觉得这有什么不好。我总以为有些东西是不应也不会丢失的,比如人的气节、 情感和爱。我想从生活背后发现我需要的东西。我说过"不愿弄丢了自己",我是担心有一天我会把 握不住跟着潮流跑了。刚开始画陕北时,我其实是赌气或者说是带有"自戕"性质地选择了鲁奥与表 现的风格,这与当时的风俗画和细腻的画风是格格不入的,其后我就一直告诫自己要坚持,因为我知 道在我会常常不自信,因为人都那么容易随波逐流。前几年,经常参加一些各种各样的画展,明明发 现许多画已很喜欢,你能不想受点影响?又比如许多朋友经常关心地问:现在都什么时候了,仍然画 农民有没有意义?我也常为此苦恼不堪,完了我又会固执地想:我为什么要学你?你们不画农民我就 不能画吗?有时看上去挺强硬的,其实内心很软弱。所以不得不常常提醒自己。我告诫自己是农民出 身,告诫自己不能因为念了几本书就装得挺有文化,不能因为小的联盟而渐巧渐小。十几年一晃就这 么过去了,虽然在这段路途中也有过许多的忧郁和彷徨,遇到过许多曲折,但我最后还总算把握住 了。

王:你近作中所表达的神秘的情绪,同你以往作品所映放出的强悍和浓烈有所不同,这与你近 年来个人境遇的变迁有无关系?

段:关系肯定是有的。最后一次去陕北是在1995年,之后去过甘肃、山西几次,陕北再没去

过。太熟了,没有了当初的冲动。但回想的却比以前多了。许多记忆经过是来年时间的过滤,倒变得更醇厚、更意味深长了,比如我就经常一人坐在画室角落里回想陕北的许多经历,想起陕北的褒忠,想起陕北寒冬腊月的火堆,想起半夜里什么地方突然冒出一句歌声,就那么尖利了一下突然就消失了。在黑暗中走着一种蓦然的寂寞夹杂着无助的感觉就一下子涌上来了。我喜欢陕北沉沉的黑夜,黑夜里似乎包含了太多无法知道的东西,这些年来我一直在揣摩着黑夜给我的启示,并努力在画中表现这种感觉。再者,1999年全家从郑州迁到北京,折腾得筋疲力尽,加上年龄的增大,许多事看得也太淡了,心劲也不如以前足了,于是画里也多了一些平静。

王:你是否正试图从你的作品中剥离"陕北"这样一个地域性的概念?

段:我的画最初画的确实是陕北,尤其是白羊肚手巾一扎,窑洞里一坐,陕北的地域特点就出来了,画里的事也马上就稠了。后来有意识地去掉了那些标志性的东西,只留下了人和山,我想模糊地域的概念,把人放在更广阔的空间里去表现。就是"人",广义上的人,最多事"北方的人"就够了。说到底这些东西对我而言无关紧要,要紧的是我能否把我想表现的那种感觉表现出来。那种对原始生命力的赞美和对神秘的敬畏,这才是根本

王: 你以一种偏执的坚持,对抗着自己和他人,这其中除去你个人的秉性和阅历,有没有其他原因?

段:前面说过,20世纪80年代后期画的那批画,确实是不屑与当时画坛流行的细腻软弱的画风为伍,有意用粗砺浓烈相对抗。那时年轻,凭着一种狂热和冲动选择了鲁奥和陕北,实际上有着"赌"的意味在里面。一画十几年过去了,周围的东西都发生了很大的变化,再像原来那样画一是没有初到陕北时的那种激动,没有了心境,再硬画实际上也会显得造作,于是我经常在我的画上作一些调整,这些调整包括情绪和表现方式。再者我也想在调整中拓宽一下我的领地。但是有一点我是不会改变的,那就是对农民的喜欢和尊重,对朴素和单纯的向往,对力度的领受。只是变了一些方式和角度而已。这种坚持,你也可以说近乎偏执,实际上我是经过许多不自信的犹豫之后,是经过了不知多少次的浓度之后,才做出这种"坚持"的选择的。对抗他人是因为有时别的东西太过强大,太诱人;对抗自己则是因为自己时常会被周围所吸引。说白了,我实际上是用一种"强硬"态度激励自己,用"偏执"来掩盖自己的心虚。因为有一点我是明白的:别人的再好,我可以欣赏,我可以从别人那里得到启示,但我决不可以去模仿,因为毕竟自己身上也有别人所不具备的东西。为什么要学了别的弄丢了自己?现在许多画技术越来越精良,画面越来越雅致,既好看,市场又好,人也就扎堆儿,敢去凑吗?一凑不就完了?所以要经常反思,要坚持自己。

王:远离了曾经深深触动你的陕北高原,是否也远离了你当初发出诘问的命题?你认为你以后面对的将是什么?

段:我想远离是不可能的。虽然去陕北少了,虽然代表陕北地域特点的一些符号去掉了,但我表达的东西实际是一贯的,这就是王林说的找回人的真实。这种真实包含着对朴实和单纯的向往,以及人内心翻腾的原始的欲望和冲动。无论什么时候,人的内心总是丰富的,那么我也就有画不完的东西。我目前所面对的除了调整好自己的心态,就是努力把对陕北给我的感受用恰当的方式表达出来,在往后,情况会变化,感觉也会变化,只好走着说着吧。

MAGICIAN SPACE 魔 余 石 空 间

北方大地的"牛命呼吸"

文/水天中

《中国写意油画学派名家研究:段正渠》,2015年,人民美术出版社

在当代中国绘画中,段正渠是无可替代的。说他"无可替代",是由于他所表达的人文精神,他所显示的艺术气质的独一无二。这种艺术上的独特性,对当代中国艺术在气魄和情调方面的缺失有所补充,有所强化。我们不必过分渲染段正渠的创作对于当代中国绘画的意义,随着当代绘画风格样式的多样化进展,段正渠的艺术风貌不是相形见拙,而是显出超越风格样式多样化形式的人文魅力。

本雅明曾经探究过传统艺术创作特有的魅力,拈出"生命的呼吸"这一说词,来形容诸如绘画、雕塑等传统形态的艺术作品所具有的特殊感染力,它"冲破自身而出,又将自身包围。"用中国文化中习惯的说法,就是艺术创作中"元气"、"意象"和"意境"的综合。在欣赏段正渠作品时联想起"生命的呼吸",是由于他的创作不同于时下艺术界的流行形态——既不是对某种技艺、习规或者功夫的演练,也不是对某种哲学观念与意识形态的阐释。段正渠绘画的特色在于它表现了一种出自个人视角的生命形态,如同艺术史上常青不凋的那些作品,它们体现着特定历史阶段的生活方式,包括创作者自身的独特生活经验。

生长在中原大地的段正渠,对北方的土地和生活在北方土地上的人们,怀有深切的感情。特别 是黄河中上游的黄土高原,一直牵引着他的心。从20世纪80年的开始,他一次又一次从郑州出发, 踏上西去的旅途,到陕北高原山乡漫游。那里的人和自然给了他最初的创作激情,《山歌》(1987)、《红崖圪岔山曲曲》(1989)等作品成为观众认识他的开始。后来的《婆姨》(1990)、《 东方红》(1991)、《走西口》(1991)等作品接连问世,段正渠与粗犷而多情的陕北高原成为 中国当代画坛特殊的文化景观。但题材的特色并不是段正渠艺术的核心价值,在中国绘画中,农民 和乡村一直没有被画家遗忘。我们的绘画史上的农民和乡村,往往是以类型化的形式出现。其主流 就是古代文人想象中的"渔樵耕读",和现代革命意识形态所主导的"苦难"—"抗争"—"解 放"模式。这种主流样式的形成应该归功于开创阶段的那些杰出作品,但后来者相沿成习,类型化 的作品使观众麻木和厌倦。近半个世纪在这方面值得注意的创作,当推石鲁、赵望云等人的"长安 画派",二十世纪八十年代以后,中国的美术家对此有所反思,"乡土写实绘画"所表现的遥远、 孤独和纯真,曾使人耳目一新。但它也没能逃脱被摹仿、被大量复制的厄运。大量复制的必然后果 是"非语境化",由经验和记忆取得的心灵资源被无节制地反复使用,反复"消耗",直至"贬 值"。而段正渠的作品之值得研究和思考,在于他远离前人的图式,从自己的内心感情经验出发, 试图对陕北高原的人与自然作心理层次的发掘。十年前我对段正渠笔下的陕北曾有如下感想——他 的作品对于近年描绘乡土风情的油画创作仿佛是一种"刺激"和"骚扰",这意味着既有艺术环境 中出现了新的活力,这种活力并不来自陕北山乡生活本身,陕北题材也可以搞得萎靡甜俗。从当代 绘画创作的全局看,段正渠在题材选择上并不是独一无二的,选取相近题材的画家很多。段正渠与 许多描绘陕北题材的画家之不同,在于他对北方乡土的观察与表现的出发点,既非出于意识形态的

需要,亦非出于绘画形式的需要,而是出于内心情感的需要。段正渠作品风格的基础,是他对乡土生活和表现性绘画形式感受的自由和新鲜。

段正渠从河南到北京以后,似乎什么也没有变。他依旧年年去黄土高原漫游,看望那里的农民,"从山上眺望缓缓流过的黄河,什么也不做,只是静静地眺望着。"但那些坐落在干旱、辽远的山塬沟壑间的村落,那缓缓流过黄土高原的河流依然使他激动,就像他初次来到"大沟"时的感觉一样。

段正渠近年创作,仍然围绕北方黄土高原的人和自然展开。他从人物肖像、生活场面和自然景象几个不同方面,对北方大地的精神气质作多角度多层次的开掘。这些作品与一般的肖像画、风景画不同,我们在这些作品里可以感受到画家面对他所钟情的人与土地时的心灵悸动。

黄土高原的人物形象,是段正渠近年创作的重点之一。在前期人物作品如《婆姨》、《出门人》、《大山歌》中间,他以单纯而强烈的手法传达山乡男女的粗犷和率真,以及在粗犷率真中透露的丰富人情。在粗壮的线条、深重的背景和形象的简约等方面,可以感觉到画家对乔治·鲁奥(Georges Rouault)后期风格的借鉴,他借鉴并发挥了鲁奥的庄严与神秘,但改变了鲁奥的阴沉和忧郁。

在后来的作品里,段正渠的个性化风格越来越成熟,特别是那些描绘陕北山乡生活场景的作品如《节日》(1996)、《北方》(2000)、《腊月》(2000)、《燃烧的树》(2001)、《远望》(2002)、《手电》(2002)、《镜子》(2005)、《旺火》(2006)、《油泼面》(2006),生活的兴致和情趣没有被粗放艰辛的环境所压抑,深重的夜色也仿佛被温暖的人情人性加温。在被称之为"活得艰难,爱得痛苦"的陕北山乡生活画面中,我们可以品味出画家巧妙渗入中原文化特有的旷达与幽默,甚至难以区分哪些形象来自陕北山乡,哪些形象源于豫中平原。应该是童年记忆、个人气质和陕北高原的人情人性共同引导画家突破鲁奥式的阴沉。

和当代中国的所有地方一样,陕北高原必然存在着智慧与愚昧,敏锐与麻木以及代表着"进步"与"落后"的种种征象。段正渠以他自己的视角和个性本色观察现实存在的一切,与回避、修饰现实,奚落、挖苦人物的流行趋势拉开距离,因为画家把他自己置于山乡人群之中。我不能忘记作品中那些在深重夜色中被灯火照亮的男女,无论是传统节日热烈的火焰,还是私密空间温情的油灯;无论是雪夜里熊熊燃烧的炭火,还是奇异地划破夜空的"手电",在这些亮与暗、冷与暖、社群的喧闹与旷野的孤独之间,显示出画家对情境、对人物内心世界洞烛幽微的眼光。那是流行文化观念难以定性、流行审美习惯无从衡量的人物和心境。

描绘幼儿形象,表现童稚情趣的作品,是段正渠绘画作品序列中新的成分。《星空》(2004)、《小儿》(2005)、《小孩》系列(2005)……段正渠总是把他们安置在质朴而深暗的空间,投射到幼小面颊上的光照改变了儿童面部结构,突出了单纯的稚气。黑暗的背景与稚嫩的面容形成奇异的对比,使人物形象具有流动和象征性。《读书》(2006)描绘山乡儿童灯下读书的场面,是一幅构思新颖的作品。画面正中高悬的灯照亮了窑洞里读书学童的脸和书本,形成奇妙的明暗关系,无论画面的形式构成,还是关注现实生活的角度,都值得再三玩味。与幼儿题材作品同时出现的还有那些描绘"小玩意儿"的画面——随意扔放在桌面的琐细物件,微型木雕,陶瓷碎片,杯子和干

花,书本和笔......它们连接成日常生活的链条。但画家也会故意放一把锐利的匕首,锋芒所指,正是日常生活的链条。这些作品反映了随着人生阅历的延展,画家所关切的对象也在扩大。

20世纪90年代,从陕北跋涉归来的段正渠曾完成一组风景画,那是描绘陕北榆林附近风貌的作品,标题为《英雄远去》。那一组风景画为观众展示了段正渠艺术气质与文化修养的另一方面,表现了沉雄壮阔的历史感慨。榆林一带是汉唐史书上的上郡,是历史上内地农耕民族与塞外游牧民族相接相争的要冲。古代诗人所吟咏的"汉家今上郡,秦塞古长城。有日云长惨,无风沙自惊"的气象被画家以现代绘画化手法所重现。也许是为了集中探究现实的陕北山乡,段正渠没有继续这一类历史性风景的创作。但流经黄土高原的黄河和依附于与这条河流的人们,是段正渠一直不曾离开的绘画题材。从十年前的《夏日黄河》(1997)开始,他为我们展开了个性化的黄河图卷,这以后的一系列黄河作品里,段正渠以厚重、自由的笔触,以强烈的表现性形式描绘黄河的浪涛、黄河上空的风云以及与黄河共命运由于黄河不息地搏斗的人们。近半个世纪,在北方、西北(包括河南)已经有过许多倾心于黄河的画家,段正渠只是这一队列中新的一员,但他对黄河的视觉形式处理,使他成为这一艺术史序列中独具一格的环节。段正渠画黄河,不限于表现性的形式处理。他的作品里有厚重的历史、文化诉求,但他的成功却在于将这些诉求融入表现性、抽象性的形式创造。使黄河的浪涛风云与他对黄河的感情印象凝结为具有生命节奉的绘画形式。

近几年他创作了多幅黄河船工的劳作和在黄河上捕捉巨大鲤鱼的图景。前者是写实基础上的表现,后者则是源于传说和想象的象征性演绎。与前期黄河渡船画面相比,近年的作品常常把视点拉近,突出人物的动势和神态,近距离表现黄河船工的劳作境遇。那些色彩艳丽的鲤鱼,俨然北方大地历史记忆的化身,它是如此沉重,如此硕大,曾经具有无可比拟的生命活力,而终于被人捕获。当我注视画面上背负巨大鲤鱼躯体的人们行走在河边,确实难以分辨那是一种成功还是一种失败,是欢乐的结尾还是沉痛的开端——也许画家所感知的正是这种亦喜亦悲的历史进程。

黑格尔认为艺术的最高境界是倾向于音乐性。我不能下结论说段正渠的绘画已经达到或者进入绘画的最高境界,但我确实在他的作品里感受到一种音乐性,确实在他的绘画发展中看到一种表现主体内心生活的努力。他笔下的人和自然总是随着他内心生活的波澜起伏而存在和发展,他的作品之所以使人感动,是由于它就像生命的呼吸,那是一种不能停息的活动,观众得到的是一种心灵感应而非"惟妙惟肖"的物象。段正渠关于陕北"酸曲"(民歌)给他的深刻影响,也许可以从一个侧面说明这种艺术思路和创作态度的缘由:"窗外,寒风呼啸……似乎世上仅存的,唯有这粗犷激越的歌声。这种声音,这种状态,我寻找了多少年,就在这瞬间,我明白了多少年来一直被什么所迷恋……"。段正渠没有改行去唱山歌,但他以画笔歌唱了北方大地的粗犷激越的深情。

2008年2月于北京立水桥

段正渠:画中原大地的传奇

采访撰文/阿宝

部分引文来自采访及《学院美术30年:段正渠》文集

多少年之后,在北方乡间,在陕北高原,在麻黄梁的窑洞中,在崩塌风蚀了的古城遗址上,在 奔流不息的大河边,在信天游凄厉的歌声里,我终于找到了表达我情感的契合点,终于弄明白一直 以来冥冥之中我被什么所迷恋。这时,我终于可以说,我在画我自己。

段正渠经常跟学生说的一句话是,画画的就是个手艺人,别把自己整得高深莫测,别把自个太 当回事儿。

学画

"道路虽然漫长,但紧要处常常只有几步,特别是当人年轻的时候。"

比起那些生在艺术世家长在学院大院的正统画家,段正渠就是个乡村里疯长起来的野小子。他生在河南偃师一个叫段湾的地方,家里读书人不少,但算不上书香门第。父亲是个中学校长,当了一辈子教书匠,三叔是北京大学[微博]学考古的,会正经八百画文物的线描图,五叔是村里的"文艺青年",徒手几笔就能在纸头上画出打滚儿的马打鸣的鸡,还能用铅笔水彩画带着阴影效果的瓶瓶罐罐儿。小村子的童年生活像村外的伊河一样平淡,记忆跟村头慢慢风化掉的古寨城门似得,不知怎么就没了。唯独五叔画画的光景,让段正渠觉得新奇得紧,得空也自己照着学起来。

1975年赶上了国家闹教育改革,学生的课时无端端多出了半年。为了糊弄掉学生们这半年无所事事的空闲时间,学校成立了好多班,有学农机、有学体育,也学画画的。段正渠当然进了美术班。师傅走马灯似的换,从画牡丹喜鹊影壁墙的手艺人,换到县文化馆的武力征老师,省里画家陈天然,还有西安美院的郭自修老师,一个比一个科班,一个比一个画得好,少年段正渠在老师们的画里开了眼,半年下来临摹了不少东西,一路画进到县里的美术班。

上世纪70年代末的中国,正在发生着翻天覆地的变革。但对于河南乡村里的段正渠,日子还是一样没什么波澜。高中一毕业,他又回到老家大队,在首阳山炸石头,抡大锤打炮眼、装炸药崩石头。日出而作日落而息的农民生活缺少盼头,好在凭着画画的能耐,段正渠被推选上了县里省里的几期美术班,画了些拿上台面的创作,还参加了几次省里的画展,胆子和眼界逐渐大了起来。1976年冬天,他跟同学互相撺掇着,捏了五块钱就一路坐火车奔郑州考戏校,转年的春天居然就收到了录取通知书。

戏校是个"没有课堂,没有正式任教的老师,没有系统的教学安排,由着我们无拘无束的恣意发展"的地方,段正渠白天画布景,有演出的时候就拉拉大幕搬搬道具,晚上就在戏校小学徒们公鸡嗓扯出来的《李双双》唱段里半梦半醒。有空的时候,他靠着临摹颜文樑、罗工柳画册,乃至二

王书法、米芾字帖,东榔头西棒槌地画自己的画,慢慢也总结出点儿"用大笔画小画,把握整体,别死抠局部"没什章法的心得。

美院

真正的转机,要说考上大学。1977年国家恢复高考,78年刚在戏校上了一年学的段正渠从朋友那儿知道这个消息,心里就沉不住气了。他去医院开了个肺结核的病假条,偷偷跑回老家复习考试去。因为告病在家,每周他还能收到学校寄来的药,心里既害怕又惭愧,把药都折进了茅坑,只能躲在家里画画,跟谁都不说话,整整憋了三个月。另一边考试专业课倒是过了,到了政审出了漏子,段正渠的档案全在郑州的戏校里,但人是在县里报的名。他只能放弃了当年的考试,眼睁睁让上大学的机会在眼前溜了过去。到底还是上学的心没死,第二年段正渠继续报考广州美术学院,也不知道是咋回事,学校竟批准了,来年他就从一个乡下孩子成了美院的大学生。

上美院的段正渠,用"如饥如渴"这个词形容最到位。广州美院是对中南五省招生的,大城市的美院和县里省里的野路子学校大不一样,段正渠身边的同学几乎都有点儿美术家底儿的,好多是美院老师的子弟,只有他是地道农村来的,一不懂解剖,二不知道结构,还少言寡语绰号"老沉"(来自当时流行的法国电影《沉默的人》)。上学头两年,段正渠即压抑又不服气,只能一门心思用功,白天上课,中午躲蚊帐里整理笔记,晚上赶上图书馆开门挤进去看书翻画册,周末还跟同学出去写生。就这么拼到三年级,他临摹的画册攒了五六大本,所有专业成绩每一次都是全班最高。

后来很多美术史学者都把20世纪的80年代初称为中国美术的"觉醒期",走出现实主义的一统天下后,艺术的创作者囫囵吞枣地模仿着西方100年来的各种风格。而其实美院的正规课程还是传统学院式的,教过段正渠的油画系老师郭绍刚是留苏归来的,袁浩则是马训班的(50年代苏联美术家马克西莫夫主持的油画训练班,将俄罗斯-苏联油画和美术学院教学方法传授到中国),课堂上的教学依然是规规矩矩的现实主义。

段正渠和当时最要好的同学徐坦、黄小鹏,都从画册里一会儿学这个,一会儿学那个。徐坦素描画得好,平时爱听《命运交响曲》,谈了恋爱就听《蓝色多瑙河》,总问老师一些深刻新鲜的问题,早早地就尝试画 "表现" ;黄小鹏则 "很酷" ,穿喇叭裤听邓丽君,一到黄昏就爱赤脚往地上一坐听音乐,不爱画画但才华横溢,是学院里的另类。段正渠自己大部分时间还是老老实实在图书馆用水粉毛笔临整本的画册,很长一段时间都迷恋 "高级灰",后来也学表现,画怀斯,对着镜子画玛格丽特和达利的超现实自画像。与他们俩不同的地方,段正渠看不进西方哲学美学的理论,倒爱读西方荒诞小说。在保守的学院里,三个人信马由缰地挥洒着年少轻狂,都还没定型。

一切还没想明白的时候,就毕业了。徐坦很快就不再画画,做起装置,后来加入大尾象工作室,在当代艺术圈子里声名鹊起。黄小鹏去了英国,过上他的"小资产阶级"日子。段正渠则放弃留校回到河南,"骨子里我还是个农民,红薯面条更对我的胃口。"

低谷

"1984年,油画作品《午休》和《新的视野》,前者被选送全国美展,结果落选;《新的视野》后被省美协选送全国青年美展,结果落选"。别人都往简历里写获奖经历,段正渠偏偏要写落选。可见这件事儿对他是个坎儿。

没有策展人、批评家,更没画廊、没市场的上世纪70、80年代,全国各种美展是美术创作者出人头地的唯一机会。段正渠回到河南挺受重视,省里备战美展把他抽调出来专心搞创作,只等美展拿奖就能咸鱼翻身。结果,稀里糊涂落选了,"也不知道是怎么弄得,反正就是被打下来了"。《午休》那画后来也找不到了,只留下个幻灯片。

之后几年,段正渠几乎都参加各种画展,全国体育美展、建军美展、纪念毛主席美展……但点 儿背的到都给筛下来。他很生气,也很无奈,不知道是自己画的不好,还是没对上评委们的口味, 反正整天都在琢磨这事儿。人生几乎走到最低谷。

到1987年全国美展的时候,段正渠其实也没了主意。他送了三张风格完全截然不同的画——分别代表了鲁奥的野兽派风格的《山歌》、波提切利的早期文艺复兴风格《春》和掺杂了凡高马蒂斯说不清什么风格的《腊月》,结果"鲁奥派"的《山歌》入选了。

"现在想想滑稽,我那时候老是想别人会怎么看我。"

下乡

拿奖的《山歌》就是在段正渠第一次去陕北之后画出来的。

为什么要去陕北画画?至今段正渠也没完全想明白。他喜欢刘文西在文革前画的那些陕北农民画,爱对着北方的荒原想象唐宋英雄传记里单枪闯敌营、击鼓战金山的边塞景致,但这似乎也不能解释他一头扎进陕北的原因。不过,若不是迈出陕北行的第一步,段正渠后来的画和日子肯定分不出现在的顿挫和篇章。

那是1987年大年初一刚过,段正渠就和段建伟约好一起下陕北。晃晃悠悠的拖拉机坐了,小旅店门口没膝的大雪画了,大车店里火炕上老司机的黄段子听了,黄河壶口边上夜半的闷雷也见识了,可对着明晃晃活生生的景画出来的真真儿的写生,跟他心里的"陕北"就一点儿都不像。晚上,段正渠把画的卡纸用图钉钉在窑洞里,躺在炕上看,闭上眼想一路上光秃秃的山梁,想在绥德夜里霍然出现的穿毛蓝褂子的汉子,想拖拉机车斗里小伙儿黄不拉擦的酸曲,想窑洞里点着油灯打着手电捧着酒碗的老汉们……慢慢地,这"陕北"没了光色,没了轮廓,就摇曳着剩了最原始最抽象的一些"影儿",反倒在他心里明朗起来。

天地之间,空阔静寂,一切装饰都显得多余和累赘;人和事儿,简单明了,用不着拐弯抹角。 段正渠一下子找到了歌唱陕北最简洁直白的方式,将人物从真实的环境里抽离出来,放淡了原本浓烈的真实色彩,画出心里顶天立地的人。 画了《山歌》那之后,段正渠每年都要跑几趟陕北,看社火、秧歌,听曲儿、斗酒,画得也越来越成熟,把那个圆熟的"陕北"慢慢打心里发酵出来,《红崖圪岔山曲曲》、《东方红》、《亲嘴》、《吃饭》,这些画都像是早早就搁在画布里的,就等段正渠去给它揭开。

1990年,段正渠和段建伟来北京看画展,正碰上"新生代"展览正火的时候。看了一天的画下来,俩人看着北京这帮画家个个有一大批作品,有了自己成熟的风格,但自己手里还是没多点儿真货。晚上俩人到住的地下室路边喝酒,郁闷里一合计:不行,咱也得办画展。第二天早上逞着酒性就去中央美院的画廊把协议签了,定金都交了。回来一清醒,俩人立马回家开始赶着画,几个月白天黑夜的画,一气忙到八月底。

到展览的时候,段正渠和段建伟俩人远远坐在展厅角落里打量着每个来看画的人,从观众脸上咂摸着褒贬。看得人越来越多,俩人才放胆想象了一下,这大概就是成功的感觉了。晚上回到招待所地下室,段正渠点了跟儿烟,心里五味杂陈,"活了三十年,第一回那么直观的从侧面照见自己。"

画自己

第一个展览做出了名气,展览和获奖的事儿接踵而来,段正渠顺便还"触了个电",在电视剧《凤凰琴》演出乡村教导主任孙四海,算是全本色出演。艺术上的想法一走上正轨,也就平平稳稳,只是依然画不来日新月异的都市,还是乡下去得多。几年下来,段正渠跟好多陕北著名民歌手拜了兄弟,村子里路熟到拐个弯是谁家都知道,画得也越来越传神。

有段时间里,乡土与民间题材的讨论红极一时,随之而来很多艺术家开始创作各具风格的乡土题材的绘画。但那些丰硕的农妇、艳丽的棉袄和惟妙惟肖伪装下的朴实似乎和中国真正的乡土越来越远。在这潮流里,段正渠就显得别具一格,不管是黄河船夫和大鱼,麻黄岭上的夕照或者灯阵,他都放弃了最直观的日常印象,用光色营造的神秘感重造了一个颇具古老传奇色彩的中国乡土,不可言状的丰富和故事性直归那个《山海经》里夸父逐日、精卫填海的神奇中原。凭这,段正渠绝对称得上当代绘画里特立独行的一个。

画传奇

1999年,段正渠调入首师大教书,开始了北京的生活。首师大的教学氛围很宽松,有大把时间能搞自己的创作。日子平静了下来后,段正渠还是常带学生到陕北写生,不过现在的陕北富裕而透着浮华,早没了他初次去的时候的新鲜和生猛。

他更愿意傍晚的时候坐在屋里,不开灯,昏昏沉沉中想当年去陕北的一些事儿,有些东西又能浮现出十几年前的感觉,那些看似微不足道的东西,到回忆里就变得意味深长了。他的画也在变,九十年代那些带着英雄远去豪气悲壮的大画少了,不必为赋新诗强说愁。"我在画我自己",陕北的风景和农人在他自己眼里打了个弯儿,等落到笔下就透出段正渠自己的旷达和神秘,光线越来越

段正渠爱看《太平广记》那种古代志异,说这书里写得比什么陈忠实、贾平凹更像他心里的陕北。他画个《借猫》,就是乡下老家很平常的事儿,农村养猫的挺少,遇到谁家的老鼠多了,就去邻居家借个猫来,扔自家屋里关一天,老鼠都吓跑了。这个事儿听起来挺好玩儿也挺平常,但给段正渠画出来就很是各色,抱着猫走夜路的女人脚步细碎,在黝黑的背景中似乎灼灼的发着光;他画《夜行》,骑着毛驴的农民被马灯照亮半个脸,菱角分明的眉眼间还透出点儿清冷,撩后襟拉架子的姿势有点儿林冲"拨开云雾见青天"的豪气;他画好些张背着猪肉回家的农人,"半拉后臀尖,一卷红蜡纸",简单直白的渴望里透着平民生活的贵气;他最爱画的还有黄河捕鱼船和唱曲儿的人,一网下去满天的金黄,一句歌吼出让人激灵半晌,他画出来的倒比站在眼前看到听到的实景实音更加立体真切。

段正渠自己文章写得甚是好看,颇具简约而跌宕的传奇文风,没当小说家,他就把说故事的能耐都融进画里。写美术史的人总想去给每个时代的艺术画个框框归个派别,以前评论段正渠说他是鲁奥加鲁本斯,后来评论家又给起了个名叫表现主义乡土,浪漫主义乡土。他都笑笑由他们。不过他画里或生鲜活辣,或神秘莫测,浸足了传奇味儿的乡土,可是再多的文字也总结不出来的。

段正渠

文/段建伟

洛阳城东40里是古时叫亳的偃师县城。往南穿过洛河和伊河,往西去,是条又宽又直的路,下一个大的漫坡,路边就看见一个一个村子紧挨着,顺着公路一字散开。段湾就在其中。这一带地势像隐伏着的龙,段湾正好在龙首。村北一条土路穿过河滩地在伊河边上止住。当年一位风水先生走到这里就不由说好个风水。又岂止段湾一处,整个偃师周围都是被古人看好的地方。首阳山的墓群隔着县城和散落周围的大冢对望着,地下埋着好几个朝代。但故事还没被埋掉。原来的墓碑处正好成了菜园,绿的黄瓜红的番茄,好看得很。所幸盖了猪圈的碑上,字也还清晰,故事还有人传唱。30年前的正渠正是听着这故事长成的。他同他的伙伴们在庄稼地里出没,在课堂上坐定。在大冢上游戏、撒尿,在老寨墙边上朗读诗词、背诵语录,脑子里闪着的却是使刀弄枪的绿林中人物。正渠1996年画的那个手捧传奇往前走不看路的孩子,兴许正是他这个时候的写照。

第一次见正渠的人都觉得他文气。但他那一双大手证明他干过不少力气活,而现在握着画笔 也同样有力。他吃饭快,走路大步流星,这都是他小时候在农村养成的习惯。它从省城回到家,也 能很快坐到筐边,一边说着话一边就扣起了玉米。割麦的时候,还能飞快地挥着镰,半晌不直一下 腰,动作和二十几年前差不太多。实际上,在进城上学之前,他已经是个十足的壮劳力了,一天挣 足十个公分。他要强,靠着勒快,肯下死力,在村里挣得了名声。而他现在画画,也是靠了勒奋和 刻苦,再加上他的天赋,在美术界挣得了名声。村子里人们说起正渠还有不少关于他画技高超的传 说,有些就传邪了,乡亲们没有去考证,正渠也并不去辩解,就由着他们。性子中粗暴和刚烈的东 西,他都好好藏着,而只在画中表现出来。不少人把他当成了一位长相有点粗野的朋友。他说话平 和,但他的画面一点也不平和,充满激情和动荡,强悍有力,他对普通农民充满深情而又惊心动魄 的描绘,使他成为中国画坛上独树一帜的人物。它最初对鲁奥形式语言的学习和借鉴,也显示了他 的勇气和血性,表现了他审美的取向和高度,这种学习和借鉴,对当时的中国画坛也具有不可忽视 的作用。这么多年他的画面改来改去,一直追求着一种变化,但他表现的东西仍然是农民,仍然是 他们的生活,痛苦,快乐和尊严,他根本就无法放弃这些。这些年大都不画农民了,正渠画着画着 就想:是情感太陈旧了?他不止一次地问自己。他有点苦恼不能像超越别的东西那样超越自己。他 早年总是一笔一笔虔诚地在画布上画个没完,当他更加娴熟的时候他就让笔跃动起来。但过后他又 觉得不喜欢,有时候他甚至觉得自己太土,土得他受不了,过后他又固执起来,仍然坚持。但焦虑 和忧郁一直没有远离,他固执的时候就想有所改变,当他有点改变的时候他又固执起来,他觉得许 多东西他无法割舍。这种固执使他不可能成为跳跃式的人物,但在这种摇摆中他一步一步地往前走 着。他一面寻找着突破口,一面又习惯性地画着。他有意改变一下的时候,就自己画的东西,心里 就没底儿,他有点不知道往何处使劲儿的感觉。他自己在一篇文章里说他希望自己是一个梁山好 汉,百折不挠,所向无敌,冥冥之中杀他个痛快淋漓,但他知道他自己再也不是当年那个凭力气让 人们信服的农村小伙子了。他凭着才智和血性争得的荣誉,在他看来也显得不重要了,他想再往前 走一大步,他觉得这是可能的。他不想像不少成功画家那样停下步子。想起初到陕北,那极目眺望 到的起伏无际的山峦所传达给他的魅力和感动,他也想起在青春年少时候被书里的好汉们折腾得睡 不着觉的夜晚,他无法把这些清除。这些真实的东西那么强烈地打动过他。他也没有忘记曾经浑身

颤栗着想:怎么着也得当个好画家。他做到了。当他知足地微笑的时候,他露出了农民那样满意的神情;但他回到艺术家的思考中时,他又挑剔地打量着自己。

1958年夏,豫西一个叫段湾的村子里发生了两件事,一件是村里在北边滩地修了一条水渠,另一件事是一位教书先生家里第四个孩子出生了。给孩子起名的时候,这位教书先生一定是对外面轰轰烈烈的场面有所感触,就起了个"渠"的名字。正渠这一代是正字辈,上边两个哥哥一个姐姐。他们家在村子里算是有些书香气的人家。他的爷爷读过几年私塾,很看重读书。父亲上过师范。二叔也考上了中学,却没钱上,后来跟共产党跑了。正渠说他记得家里很有些规矩,父亲排行老大,弟兄几个一齐出门的时候,几个叔叔总要让出半步,让父亲在前。父亲当时在外乡一个中学当校长。写得一手好字。每到年关家里都要忙乎几天,为乡亲们写对子。在当院摆上桌子,倒上一大碗墨汁,裁红纸,叠格子,然后一家一户地给人家写。正渠稍大一点,这些裁纸,倒墨汁的事就是正渠一个人的事了。父亲写上几天,用上两大碗墨汁,大半个村子的对子都成了父亲的墨迹。慢慢地正渠也跟着练起了大字。有一次几个朋友跟正渠回他们村子转悠,在村边上,还能见到几家门框上残留的对子,正渠说这是他父亲去年写的。几个人就站住,看那些字在风里头一动一动的,是那种很标致的胖胖的颜体。

父亲话语不多,只默默地做着自己的事情,对正渠的影响,也就是一点一滴的,并不多说。正 渠也就慢慢养成了默默做事的习惯。父亲"文革"时受到冲击,就回到村里。家里的书大都被搜走烧掉了。"文革"结束后,有几个乡的中学都来请他,他都以身体不好做理由,把人家回绝了,就 在自己村学校当了校长,一直到退休。父亲以为只有正渠得了他的真传,1996年他病了以后,每到年关还总要捎信让正渠回村给乡亲们写对子。父亲躺在床上,看见正渠在当院一幅一幅地给村民们写对子,心里就很高兴。

正渠记事的时候,大哥和五叔都已在乡高中读书了。这样的家庭环境对正渠来说,好好读书是件再正常不过的事了。但是二哥正乾对正渠却有着另外一种影响。当时二哥小学快毕业了,突然有一天吵着不愿上学了,要做木匠,父亲一怒之下重重地教训了他,但二哥并没有改变主意,偷偷地攒了点钱,很快置办了一套木工家伙,跟着同村一位木匠一心一意地当起了学徒。正渠说他最服的就是二哥这样的人,那样的年龄就那么有主见,而且多少年不改变初衷,一直到干成。

二哥比正渠大六岁。正渠服二哥就老想跟着二哥一伙,但二哥和同伴们疯跑的时候却并不想带他。有一回邻村放电影,正渠早早就盯上二哥,他们出了村正渠就在后面远远跟着,二哥发现了就喊滚!正渠站住不动,等二哥他们一走他又跟上,二哥再次扭回头喊滚回家,正渠仍然站住,但最终还是跟上了他们。在放电影的场上,二哥把正渠抱到一堵土墙上就和伙伴们疯跑开了,在人堆里乱窜,正渠见不着二哥,又下不来,心里就发毛,熬了不知多长时间,二哥就来拍他的腿,正渠伸手去摸二哥,手里被二哥塞了东西,是两只还有热气的卤鸡爪。

那些年农村生活一直很苦,饿的感觉伴随了正渠很多年,正渠说他吃过玉米芯面,榆树皮汤和红薯蒂汤。有一年母亲因为浆线打了一大盆面汤,正渠抱住母亲的腿说不叫浆线要叫做成面条。母亲也没吭声,后来就说叫姐领你去接大哥吧,大哥该放学了。正渠就跟上姐高高兴兴去村头接放学的大哥,这种情景正渠说他记得很清楚,傍晚的时候,姐就领着他站在村南头的寨子门口,远远地

就看见人来了,走近了却不是,身后边的村子在夕阳衬托下慢慢就黑下来了。大哥放学回来偶尔会从书包里掏出一把花生给他和姐,或者一块红薯,但更多的时候,什么也没有,只是像父亲那样摸摸他的头或脸,领着他和姐往家走,有时候背上他,在大哥的背上,正渠慢慢就把饥饿忘了。对这段饥饿的岁月正渠有着很深的记忆,1990年他有一张小画,名字就叫"吃饭",一家三口,每人都端着一只大碗,很忙活地吃着,后来在一篇文章里,他也说他确实吃了不少的红薯。

村子里有个说河洛大鼓的叫臭爷,常在村子里拉起场子。正渠记得他听过的段子有《金鸠记》 ,《三侠五义》,《王宝钏薛平贵》等,每回正渠都听得如醉如痴,而到了节骨眼上,臭爷就嘎然 停住,在乡亲们吵吵声中静静地收了家伙。有些段子后来也续上了,有些段子,农活一忙就再也没 了下文。正渠也就不能放下,晚上躺在床上就想这些侠肝义胆的豪杰们,想着那没讲完的下半段, 这些故事加上他自己的想象就开始在脑子里膨胀。后来正渠找到一本少头没尾的《水浒》和几本破 破烂烂的传奇,一下就迷了进去,那些铁马金戈打天下,马背上有酒有曲有女人的好汉们让他心驰 神往。这些故事影响了他的少年时代,也影响了他的一生。正渠上初中时,能见到的书都读了。不 过当时也真见不到什么书,家里的书文革时都抄走烧掉了。这段时间正渠见到什么读什么,电工手 册,中药图谱,农药使用和赤脚医生手册,都一字不落地读过,有一回在三婶家还把一小本计划生 育手册诵读了一遍。上高中时,同学张晓西家的藏书吸引了他,有事没事就老往张晓西家跑。几年 下来,正渠在晓西家读了不少苏俄文学名著和一些文革前的文学刊物,慢慢地迷上了文学写作,他 当时最崇拜的作家是浩然。他还给晓西说他得当个作家,晓西就觉得正渠是个有大志的人。这时候 他的一篇作文,其实就是一篇批判稿,被学校相中,当成范文油印了很多,发给全校同学。这更激 发了他写作的热情。有一次作文课,别人只写了两三页就完事了,可正渠很上劲,写了一篇小说, 展开就收不住了,一下就写了一厚本,他完全把这次作文当成了一次很重要的文学创作。后来他的 中学同学都还记得这篇小说的名字。大家都以为正渠会干写作了,将来当个作家多了不得,可正渠 后来喜欢上了美术。不过这两篇文章还是让正渠很风光了一段时间。当时正是"三夏"大忙,为了 反映全村大干农业的火热场面,大队挑了三个文章写得最好的年轻人,往各生产队麦地去写稿,然 后在大队广播站广播,这中间就挑中了正渠。

正渠要强的性格从他小时候干活就能看出来。上了中学,就跟着大人一起干农活,正渠总想让别人把自己当成棒劳力。有一回他听见当生产队长的四叔和村里几个老汉正在夸二哥正乾,说二哥能干,肯掏力,啥活都能拿下来。当然,二哥二十多岁的年龄,正是能干的时候,正渠就想着得像二哥那样能干,成为那样叫人家都服气的人。正渠当时就是十五六岁吧,也是正逞能的时候,拉土拉石头,满了,还非得再加上两锨或加上两块。有一回正渠跟村里不少人连着几天去南山拉矿石,往返五六十里,一来一回得一天,一早去,回到家天就黑了,路上过个大坡,上下也有四五里地,家里有驴的后半晌就牵上去接坡,没驴的家里就去人招呼自己家的车。母亲叫姐后晌去接正渠,正渠辈着硬是不让接。干把斤重的一车石头,上了坡就得歇歇,喘喘气,正渠上了坡还非得再往前走走把架子车停在别人的车前头,他觉得自己什么活也都能顶下来了。矿石拉到耐火厂,一干斤能卖四块五,母亲说看正渠拉一趟就能给他撕条劳动布裤子啦。没过多久,队里组织人去县里拉化肥,挑的都是能干的人,也挑上了正渠。中午,装完车,队里掏钱让大家饱饱吃了一顿面条。正渠捧着大瓷碗,呼噜呼噜往嘴里扒着面条。他心里高兴,他觉得是自己掏力气挣得了这个名分。

这一年冬天,村里几户人家凑了一车大米让喜通爷带正渠去洛阳换面,到洛阳城里走近路也得四五十里吧。半夜正渠迷迷糊糊被叫起来。跟着喜通爷就上路了,赶个早,日出前就到了洛阳。他们拉着装大米的架子车挨街挨楼转。喜通爷扯上嗓子喊着,可正渠怎么也张不开嘴。同龄的男男女女,一身城里人打扮,骑着自行车从他们身边走过去。那些换面的城里人透出来的高傲和冷漠,正渠都很敏感地察觉到了。他一声不吭,由着喜通爷跟人讨价还价,自己低着头倒米,上称,把面倒进口袋,当时正渠在这些城里人面前,他理不清自己的情绪,他清楚自己这个农村身份的小伙子在城里人眼中的位置,有种东西就翻腾着在心里升了起来。这种情绪刺激着他去幻想,让它变成城里人,让他出人头地,变成连城里人也仰慕的英雄。

心里别扭,就胡思乱想着,但他这时候也还只有这种念想,还远没有改变自己命运的机会和能力。多半有种的孩子遇住事都会发个狠咒,当时正渠怎么想的,也许连自己都已模糊了。他跟着喜通爷拉着车子,大步流星往家走,唯一的感觉就是困乏得要命,走着走着就迷糊起来。到伊河边时,已是半夜,他们得等天亮时再渡船。喜通爷看正渠困得很,就找到一个麦秸垛。两人把架子车一放,就一头扎进去睡着了。这个事儿以后,连正渠也觉得自己一下子长大了,心里就搁了个想法。

正渠离开农村前还有一件事,姐看正渠十八九岁了,就和她的几个伙伴给正渠说了个媒,说是长相身段都不错,人也老实。但正渠一听就急了,嗓门也提高了,无论如何就是不同意,把姐和她的几个伙伴弄得很没有意思。其实她们不知道,正渠已经有了个远大的志向,死活不在农村找对象,他心里想,自己不会一辈子待在农村,不会一辈子都当农民。后来正渠在城市里当了画家,也正是他要离开的农村生活,才使得他的画有了内容,有了生命。

最早对正渠学美术有直接影响的是三叔和五叔。三叔是北大考古系毕业,经常要勾勾画画的,有一次回家讲起他们发掘的一座古墓,三叔当时详详细细地把古墓里的壁画描述了一番,正渠在一边听着,加上古墓阴森的环境,这幅壁画就刻在了正渠心里。五叔是常常把自己关在一处翻着几本画谱,这应该是正渠爷爷传下来的藏书的一部分。五叔用白纸把它们临摹下来,散乱地放在屋里或钉在墙上,是一些山,石头和打滚的马。五叔临摹它们的时候,正渠就站在边上安静地看着,觉得这是个了不起的事。五叔偶尔会让正渠去把碗里的涮笔水换换,正渠就喜滋滋地跑出去换水。后来五叔被新疆部队当特长兵招走了。这几本画谱却留在了家里。

正渠开始学美术,是上乡高中的时候。当时学校组织了一个美术组,让有点基础的学生参加。正渠以前照着家里的画谱画过几张,就进了美术组。那几年对文化课都还不重视,美术组就有很多活动时间。招呼美术组的是村里请来的一位老师,画过风门,也会写一些鸟字,但并不知道怎样教学生,就由着学生出去跑,画速写。后来,县里的一个美术班也办在了乡高中,美术班的学生是从全县招的,这自然比他们学校那个美术组要高一截子。而这个美术班的创办者,又是在省里都有影响的武力征老师,很会教学生。正渠他们这些"地方军"就很羡慕,有时候偷偷看人家上课。正渠这时候才知道了,学美术得画石膏像。这年麦假,正渠头一回过了画石膏像的瘾。当时农忙,户里的电都断了,但父亲学校的办公室却还供电。正渠就把自己的时间安排了一下,如果排到前半夜打麦,就后半夜到父亲的办公室,轮到后半夜打麦,就前半夜去。到父亲办公室,拉开灯,从柜子上把毛主席石膏像抱下来,摆好角度就在纸上画起来。这个麦假,正渠把父亲办公室里的几座不同造

型的毛主席石膏像画了个遍。画的次数最多的,是那座毛主席全身像,毛主席穿着大衣,没有扣扣子,一边的下摆随着轻风微微向外翻开,一只手自然下垂,另一只手背在身后。正渠被这种从容不迫的造型迷住了,也被石膏像在灯光照耀下变幻莫测的黑白关系迷住了。想起这段画石膏像的美好时光,正渠还禁不住泛起微笑。只是当时这些石膏像因为怕弄脏,都涂了一层清漆,出现了很多高光和反光,正渠说当时觉得那真是太难画了。

后来,陈天然先生在附近的水库上体验生活,收集创作素材,听说这里美术活动搞得好就来了。正渠跟上陈天然先生,帮他掂着折叠凳和装画具的旅行包,陪他出去画速写,他专心地看着陈先生画,自己也一笔一划地学着。这样几天下来,正渠学了不少东西;再后来郭自修老师也来过美术班,在学校门口领着学生们画了一张老汉素描,这算是正渠头一回见的美院出来的两个画家的画了。正渠模仿力强,学习也用心,速写一下子进步了很多。

正渠高中毕业后才上的县美术班。这时候美术班已搬到县城,名气也越来越大。能上美术班是件很光荣的事。村里也很支持。正渠上这期美术班的时候,生产队还给正渠记工分。美术班几个年龄大一点的学生,有些已上过几期了。正渠刚去,就跟着他们画。这些学生中有一个叫籍豫生的,他最先见到正渠的速写,当时就吃了一惊,觉得正渠画得比他们好。正渠就开始在美术班有了些地位。正渠看的书多,画得也好,谈吐自然就不大一样,慢慢地,服气他的人更多了,豫生当时对正渠的评价是"学识渊博",正渠说,其实那时这个词是啥意思还不知道呢。过了一段,因为家里农活忙,正渠在家干了两天活,武老师知道了,开大会时,武老师就批评说,有个学生,画得很有才气,但是有点骄傲情绪,别人在这画,他却跑回去两天。正渠一听就知道是说自己的,他很害怕,也觉得有点委屈,不过,正渠后来在美术班里再也没让武老师说过他第二回。

这时候,省里办了一个农业学大寨速写展,正渠的几幅速写选上了,这些速写是正渠前一阵子在首阳山放炮打石头时画的,最直接地反映了那种火热的场面;后来,全省又举办了一个"双庆"美展,正渠的一张农民画《俺们又有了当家人》入选了。这是一张反映农村生活的工笔重彩,在武老师指导下正渠画了一个月,这是正渠第一次入选省美展。这下不得了了,村委非常重视,觉得这是村里出了人才,不能再让人家像一般村民那样打石头放炮了,正渠回村时,队里也不知道叫他干啥,就给他个本子让他给别人记工分,正渠借着这个机会又舒舒服服地画了很多的速写。

正渠头回来郑州,就是来看这次省展。当时武老师给正渠画了张地图,正渠按着地图的指引,从火车站走到省博物馆。看完展览,想上街转转,结果走到一个陌生的路上,正渠怕把自己丢了,又忙拐回去,顺原路回到车站。

武老师是越来越看重这个有出息的学生了。过了没多久,洛阳地区办了一个创作班,武老师骑上车跑到正渠家,给正渠说他单位有事叫正渠顶他的名额去。正渠高高兴兴就去洛阳报到了,结果一去才知道,参加学习班的大都是各县的文化馆长们或当时有点名堂的作家,画家。地区很重视这次活动,安排到煤矿体验生活,创作作品。正渠这次认识了不少老师,另外印象深的是吃得很好。

1976年底,正渠跟着美术班的同学来郑州报考省戏校舞美班。对正渠来说,毕竟可以通过上学跳出农村,他非常攒劲地去准备,不过,还是稀里糊涂考得并不理想。考色彩时,正渠是第一次用水粉颜料画写生。台子上摆放的静物,尤其是那颗白菜的梆子,更让正渠发愁,他带来的一瓶白广

告色,几乎全都用在了白菜梆子上,还是觉得不够白。局部的颜料过厚,纸的四边都卷了起来。还有几天的考试,正渠已经灰心了。晚上找到比他大一点的同学说不想考了想回家,那位同学就说那你走吧。正渠一来不敢一个人回去怕跑岔路,二来觉得没法向武老师和父母交待,还是硬着头皮考到了最后一天。最后一天考的是文化课,考学生的文学水平,题目是一篇批"四人帮"的文章,这下正渠才找到了感觉。这次考试共考了11天。考完后。正渠出了口长气,就跟着伙伴们一起回去干农活了。1977年3月的一天下午,正渠扛上耙去南地耧麦,后边他大姐手里拿着个信封追着他喊"正渠,正渠你被录取了!"

当时戏校舞美班的课程也并不是十分正规,其他专业演戏,他们就被分配拉大幕;有时候的 课,就是跟老师一起画布景,正渠说他跟着老师画过五个戏的布景。隔一段时间,办公室就派他们 把舞台边的那几个大块地毯拉出来打扫打扫。但毕竟这个环境要比县美术班好了。看的东西多了, 知道的也多了,这时候画的水粉风景,正渠已经开始知道用群青画背光部,受光部分就去调桔黄。 当时学校附近的话剧团、歌舞团里有几个上海戏剧学院和中央戏剧学院舞台美术专业毕业的老师, 正渠常抱着自己一摞一摞的习作去找他们求教,其中有位姓顾的老师对学生非常好,把珍藏的苏联 画册和自己的作品拿出来让正渠看。正渠后来说他最早见到的苏联画册也就是在这位老师家里,而 目这位老师很有才情,她的画对正渠有不小的影响。当时出版社要出一本人像速写集,大部分是中 央美院的老师和北京的一些名家,那时候的画还不主贵,交来的大都是原作,让出版社统一反拍。 出版社一个老师就喊正渠去看这批画,这也算是第一次看到了一大批名家的原作。这期间,正渠仍 坚持着画速写,对他速写影响最大的是董辰生,陈玉先,他喜欢他们的帅气和流畅的线条。当年不 少风行的美术作品都对正渠有或多或少的影响,他凭着自己的刻苦和好学,成绩很快上来了。当时 班上还有一个很用功的女学生,叫赵惠萍。赵惠萍是郑州人,又是知识分子家庭出身,在美术上开 窍可比正渠要早,当时的成绩,要比段正渠好,让正渠说,他当时也很服气。他们当时经常一起画 写生,还跑到洛阳、偃师画风景。这时候,县美术班的籍豫生他们已考上洛阳师专,也常往郑州 跑,连赵惠萍跟他们也都熟悉了。

1978年,在偃师摩托厂上班的张晓西给正渠来了一封信,信里夹着一块从报纸上剪下来的广州美院招生简章,晓西在信里鼓动正渠去考美院,还好好把正渠夸了一番,说正渠如何有才如何有远大志向,正渠真被煽了起来。但当时有规定,在校大、中专生不能直接报考高校,正渠发愁了几天,把这件事告诉了郭自修老师,郭老师一听也很激动,鼓励正渠要去考美院,还帮正渠出主意,给正渠弄了一张病假条,以肺结核的名义在家复习考试。正渠又兴奋又紧张,躲在家里准备了三个月。这中间学校还给正渠往家寄过几回药,正渠心里很不是滋味,但他太想上美院了。这次考试,远不是上回考戏校舞美班了,成绩还不错。广州美院版画系这年在河南要招两名,已经开始调档,政审了,正渠打听出来这其中就有他。正渠找到这位来招生的老师,把自己的情况告诉了这位老师,这位老师也实在喜欢这个朴实而有才气的学生,就说要系里出面去做戏校的工作,正渠更害怕了,因为恰好在这几天学校一位在校生因为考了别的艺术院校受到了处分,事情闹腾得还不小。正渠痛苦万分,只好放弃了这个机会。整个假期,它都不怎么说话,人像走了神儿一样,吃了饭,就掂上画箱往村外跑。有一天正渠进门时听见母亲小声对他的一个朋友说:你们拉正渠出去玩玩吧,别叫他闷着出啥事儿。正渠当然没出事,他只是狠命地画了一个几个月,画了近百张写生。开学时,这批画把同学们都吓了一跳。正渠心里憋着一股劲儿,非得再考上美院不行。第二年高考的时

候,不知怎么地,学校也稀里糊涂地在他们的报考表上盖了公章。算是有命吧,这年正渠考上了广 州美院油画系。

录取通知来之前,正渠心里一点儿也不踏实,这次考试他心理压力非常大,考得并不理想,水平没有完全发挥出来。戏校这边,他们这一班学业已结束,他已经被分配到省歌舞团了。但他没有急着去报到,他想等美院有了消息后再说。他把豫生从洛阳叫来,两人天天到郊区画写生来打发这段等待的日子。装着录取通知的挂号信,是一个同学转给他的,正渠记得很清楚,那一天晚上正渠拉上豫生到百货楼旁边的一个饭店吃了顿肉丝面。

1979年9月,正渠背着他的行李到了广州美院。正渠知道广州可是一个大城市。当时的广州是 开放较早的城市,对河南人来说,就是牛仔裤,太阳镜,折叠伞和录音机。这些就是经济和商业发达的象征。整个中国北方在当时都或多或少地受到它的冲击。但正渠不喜欢广州,不喜欢广州话,不喜欢湿热的天气,他喜欢的只是广州美院,只是美院图书馆的大量外国画册。初到广州,正渠有种不适应的感觉,但很快就回过劲儿来,开始投入到学习中,他说他是到了广州之后才知道除了唐伯虎、列宾之外,还有这么多好画家,这么多流派。也是进了美院后正渠才听说,他这次考学创作考得分很高,可是素描分考得很低。另外,当时班上有些同学进校之前就已接触过很多东西,画东西都很有想法,有的进校前就已经发表过不少作品,有不小的名气。这样的环境,让这个农村来的小伙子压抑了很长一段时间。这种压抑也成了不小的动力,他觉得想改变这一切就得靠自己了。他除了上课,就把自己泡在图书馆里,翻画册,他知道自己不会一直是一个成绩平平的学生。就像几年前他知道自己不会一辈子呆在农村一样。后来他和班上的两个同学成了哥们儿,一个是武汉的徐坦,另一个是油头的黄小鹏,课堂上,他们常在一起交换对作业的看法,晚上,三个人在一起用水粉在本子上临摹画册,有时候在画室画画,一直到熄灯。这四年中,正渠说他没睡过午觉,中午钻进蚊帐休息时,正渠就画画或整理笔记。正渠像在家干活一样使足了劲,也完全被新鲜的东西迷住了,所有这些新的东西他都想学到手。

当时的广州美院,在教学上也跟其他美院差不多,不少国外画册都能见到,有一拨青年教师还很活跃,他们极力在学生中宣传新的艺术思想,在整个教学上也已和原来的苏派体系有了很大的距离。正渠最初对苏派灰调子的钟情,使它成为画灰调子的"抒情王子",但有一次杨尧看了他的这些画,没有夸奖,而是让他把颜色画亮起来,颜色纯起来。这些意见对正渠很有影响,开始摆脱苏派的灰调子。恰好这学期他们班去海边渔村写生,正渠说当时太阳一照,沙子是金黄色的,海水是普兰。这次写生后,正渠逐渐走出了灰调子,而在后期印象派和表现主义那里找到了他要学的东西。这种东西在当时的学院教学中,仍然显得激进和过于主观,这种方法画的作业,有时候打分就很低,但正渠和徐坦、黄小鹏越走越远,这种反叛的冲动让他们兴奋不已。他们继续着自己的探索和学习,仍然自信得很。有一段时间,他们私下里称自己是油画系的"三剑客",他们一点也不想当学校的好学生,总要在画面上弄些出格的东西出来。徐坦的素描功夫一直都很好,画得东西都很硬实,黄小鹏一味在画面上求新。事实上,他们俩对正渠也都有过不小的影响。

大三的创作课,是去武钢体验生活,正渠他们画了很多速写和草图,回到学校后就开始着手上画布,黄小鹏画了三个工人坐在屋子里,窗外是冒着红烟的大烟囱,画得很洋,又起了个很洋气的画名,"云在窗户外面天空里面"。徐坦是一张竖长条画,画几个站着的工人。在钢厂,为了补

充体内的盐分,工人喝的都是带盐的汽水,徐坦和黄小鹏可能觉得盐汽水很特别,或者很喜欢掂着盐汽水瓶的动作,所以他们画上的人都掂着汽水瓶,徐坦的画有点表现主义的用笔,他的画名叫"钢水汗水盐汽水"。正渠画一个工人的背影,背景是管道和铁架子,在管道和铁架子之间,是两朵结结实实的云,有点像达利和马格利特的风格。名字叫"有云的风景"。当时的创作风气,一是都很洋,很像外国人的画,二是更注重形式,他们三个当时的创作,也都属于这种类型。但期末的时候,学校好像并不欣赏这类的创作,给的分都不太高,倒是一些年轻教师很喜欢,觉得画面很新,不同于老的创作手法,应该肯定这种探索,这样,他们的分数就在原来的基础上往上升了一级,黄小鹏、徐坦的分数成了良上,正渠则由良上改为优。这件事对正渠是个不小的鼓舞。

20世纪80年代前期,乡土现实主义成为油画创作的重要题材和主流风格,这个时期的一批优秀作品也肯定对正渠有过影响,但他那时候正对画面着迷,正对形式着迷,它可能还没有认识到乡土现实主义的重要性,没有意识到乡土绘画会和他发生什么关系。只是在几年以后,乡土绘画已经消失的时候,他才又开始画他自己的乡土。

正渠上美院时,赵惠萍被留校然后去上海戏剧学院进修。这时候她和正渠还有联系,但好像还只是互有好感的老同学关系。是豫生和晓西觉得他们挺般配。他俩喝完酒就把这事儿定了,他们跑去对正渠说,她对你有那个意思,把正渠说得睡不着觉。又跑去对赵惠萍说,她对你有那个意思,赵惠萍也睡不着觉了。豫生还对正渠说你是男的,应该主动一些。这是正渠该上大二假期的事儿。开学返回广州,正渠就写了一封求爱信寄给了赵惠萍。信寄出后正渠心里一直不安,这几天就很勤地往收发室跑。等了八九天,赵惠萍来信了,信上说她考虑了很长时间,最后的意思还是同意了。这以后,他们就开始了长达三年的通信。正渠说,他们当时通信很有规律,他星期三发信,赵惠萍周末接住信星期天发信,正渠星期一或星期二接住信。正渠后来说这三年把爱情的事解决了,字也练出来了。有了爱情,正渠学习起来就特别有劲儿,心态平和,情绪稳定,这几年,也就扎扎实实学到了不少东西,为他以后的发展,打下了坚实的基础。几年下来,整个像换了一个人,各方面都成熟多了。

毕业分配时,学校想让正渠留到油画系,但赵惠萍不想让正渠留校,她觉得正渠要留在广州,时间一长就该变心了。学校这边也做正渠的工作,系主任郭绍纲还把正渠叫去谈话。正渠犹犹豫豫的时候,赵惠萍干脆跑到广州,还是把正渠拉回了河南。正渠说,他也正好不习惯广州的生活。

回到河南,正渠被分配到省外贸。那几年外贸正是红火的时候,在郑州算是少有的好单位。但正渠受不了天天坐班,不能画画,只待了一星期就要走。正好市群艺馆要他,他觉得市群艺馆能画画就去了群艺馆。群艺馆虽然穷点但有的是时间,他可以像在美院那样,天天画画了。接下来的几年当中,正渠画了大批油画习作,这中间也给出版社画过不少插图,连环画。还在美术班断断续续带过几年课。上课的时候,他也跟着学生一起画素描头像。抽出空就跑回偃师画风景。下乡画画,住宿就得凑合,好在正渠能吃苦,也并不在乎。不过,每次下乡回来,就要染上虱子,这样站在家门口就得把衣服脱了,好让赵惠萍烫洗。这些油画习作大都画在四开卡纸上。有一次几个朋友去看他的画,看到两满柜子一摞一摞的油画。他几乎不愿停一会儿手,和朋友聊天或者开会,就随手拿支什么笔,再随便在一张纸上划拉。他的手上了瘾,一刻不愿停下来。有一回赵惠萍说,正渠每天画完画都累得很,进屋就扎到床上了。正渠心里急,他觉得有太多的东西得学到手,又太多的东西

MAGICIAN SPACE 魔 余 石 空 间

需要摸索需要尝试。这个阶段的作品,更多的还是形式语言上的学习,还延续着学校时的学习方法。他喜欢邦纳尔,鲁奥,贝克曼,杜菲和夏加尔,也喜欢波提切利,卢梭,这些画家的风格在他这时期的习作中都有所体现。尽管这些画家风格迥然不同,但在正渠的画中,学得都很像,而且无一例外。正渠的每张画都很帅气,也洋得很。有一次一个朋友跟他一起下乡去写生,在一天之中看他换了好几种风格,当时就把他的朋友看傻了,他当时正是二十几岁的年龄,他让自己的帅气和才能显露无遗,他觉得画出好画才是最重要的。当时在国内其他城市,不少画家都受到国外艺术观念的影响,在做着和他不一样的尝试,刊物上也常登一些画家的言论。正渠很不以为然,有一段时间正渠干脆就不看这些刊物了,他觉得画画比的就是手头功夫,说得太好就不是画画的了。当时,殷双喜约过他一篇文章发在河南文艺报上,正渠写的还是他自己的道理,他觉得画家的嘴除了吃饭,亲嘴外最好不要再用了。

1984年省里组织过一个创作班,选了一批有实力的画家,住在一个学校里,每人一个大房间,让他们准备第六届全国美展的作品。正渠画了两幅。一幅是一张竖条的画,两个女建筑工人在脚手架上,背景是天空,很抒情。另一幅画的是一群民工在没完工的房子里歇晌,窗户边有民工在往远处眺望。在当时看来,这两张画都很洋气,画面功夫也很好,形式感很强,有些与众不同的味道,和当时国内流行的那种写实风格是两码事。但是后来落选了,这让正渠很伤心,他想参加全国美展。他不停地画着,不停地送作品,接下来几次展览,他也都无一例外地落选。他觉得有点怀才不遇,连自信心都没了,又觉得问题可能出在自己身上,他干脆就又开始画起了鲁奥那种画。1986年秋,黄山有个会议,是国内一批新潮艺术家的大集结,总结"85新潮美术"。河南有几个画家想喊他一起去听听,他那两年心理正烦,就拒绝了几个朋友的邀请。其实这时候正渠一点也不喜欢新潮美术的东西,尽管这几年新潮美术有了很大的阵势,火得很。但正渠有点赌气一样连美术刊物也不看了,还任性得很,他落选的那几个展览他也一个都没去看。

1987年春节刚过,他和两个朋友去了一趟陕北,行程很不顺利,除了去时遇上大雪,过了四 五天,才到达陕北,另外就是它太想画,带的东西太多,没能多跑些地方,窝在园则沟画了一星期 油画写生。但这次陕北之行,正渠还是遇到了不少让他感动的事,尤其是在园则沟那一晚上,让他 找到了要表达的东西,他让陕北迷住了,让陕北民歌迷住了,回郑州后,他一气画了好几张表现陕 北的大画。但他仍然也还画着别的风格的画,他想多准备两手,这样入选全国美展的可能性会大一 些。1987年底的首届中国油画展,正渠交到省里两张画,一张画的是一个穿花衣服的城市少女,站 在开满花朵的草地上, 地平线是一列几乎成了一条线的火车, 手法更多是波提切利的, 少女表情冷 峻,但整个画面是甜美的,和另一张画相比,显得空洞,造作,缺乏激情,这另一张画就是后来在 展览上引人注目的《山歌》,这张画用的是鲁奥的表现手法,浓重的黑线和纯度很高的颜色,画中 人物的侧面是正渠对鲁奥手法颇有心得的模仿。这张画应该是正渠真正喜欢的,是真正用心画的, 也更多表达出了正渠的情绪和想法。画得很简单明了,用笔很有些放纵的味道,有点他自己想大声 喊一嗓子的感觉。他不觉得这张画是为展览准备的,而完全是为了自己过瘾。省里评选时,评委们 无法统一认识,只好采用站队的方式,同意选送"少女"的就站在"少女"画前,同意送"山歌" 的就站在"山歌"画前,但是双方人数正好相等,这时候,站在"山歌"前头的曹新林就鼓动了另 外的评委,还是选送了"山歌"。正渠知道以后,心里不知是喜是忧,他喜欢"山歌",但这样的 画和当时大家的审美趣味不一致,展览会上见到的大多都是画得很工整的女人,还有让人印象很深

的粉嘟嘟的小手,这样的画送上去估计也没戏。这次展览临开展时也仍没有确切的消息。当时正渠和省里其他几位画家去看了这个大展,开幕式过后,他站在上海美术馆门口不敢进,他落选落怕了,他怕进去看不到自己的画。正渠后来说,当时"少女"如果入选了,那它可能就按那一路画下去了,正渠说的是实话。但不会这么简单,他迟早还会回到他的骨子里头,不过可能要迟几年了。

1989年是不太平常的一年,年初在北京举办的现代艺术展很热闹了一阵,批评家说它标志着现代艺术运动进入了尾声,而年底在南京办的第七届全国美展的油画展,也办得很轰动,热闹的八十年代即将过去,画家们都开始冷静下来,这个展览上出现了一批有分量的油画作品,这次展览的金奖作品是韦尔申的《吉祥蒙古》,而段正渠送的《红崖圪岔山曲曲》也获了铜奖。这张画比两年前的《山歌》画得更加沉稳,场面也更大。整个画面画得很满,也沉甸甸的。他画得朴素,自然,和直率以及画面大量的墨颜色和苦涩的用笔,都让人过目不忘,在展览上很引人注意。让人们知道了河南有一个带点鲁奥笔法的画陕北的画家。不少批评家都把这个展览作为一个分水岭,说她同样是乡土现实主义的终结,但段正渠当时正沉浸在获奖的兴奋中。他的画和乡土现实主义的关系,他根本没有想过,他只是觉得他的画和乡土现实主义并不是一码事,他也并没有觉得画农民有什么问题,乡土现实主义终结了,但段正渠的乡土绘画才刚刚开始。

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