

Review

Eum Sung-do's Exhibition

March 14~20

Dongduk Art Gallery

Stand in a Primeval Scene and Face a Cosmic Womb

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Ceramics is largely divided into two kinds of pottery and ceramic plastic art. The former is focused on the functional concept of vessels, and the latter cubic formative art based on the material of clay. The former reveals living art and can be part of a broader plastic art, while the latter in itself affirmatively represents formative art as easily confirmed in contemporary ceramics. Of course, mutual formative breaking the border of the two kinds is often observed.

Eum Sung-do shows in this exhibition a series of ceramic plastic art works made by casting, his peculiar way of production. Even though casting is generally applied to sculpture, wood printing, and painting, it is still rather new in the field of ceramics. In common formative art, casting makes possible life-size reproduction. In ceramics, however, the whole process is by no means easy owing to technical and material limits. His exhibition, therefore, shows his success to overcome the limitations. According to him, casting is the occasion of broadening the expression scopes of pottery and ceramic plastic art, which may be evidenced by his future works.

Eum Sung-do creates peculiar shapes by way of the casting method. Atypical bodies have plenty of white protrusions like the sensory palpi of prototypic creatures. On the surface of the bodies are blue and pink dots, reminding us of some living organisms. This looks like a primeval scene where archetypal organisms swim around in the time-deadly dark. In other words, the exhibition space of neutral values is turned into a situational or epical space. This spatial occupation is an important element of formative art, and the author leads the audience to the cosmic womb bearing life. The protrusions can be compared to the emission of energy or life force as the author rightly planned and proposed.

To sum up, the author makes use of his special method of casting to get spatial occupation. When the space is absorbed as a formative element, he succeeds in ceramics and expands its expression scopes.