

LEE UFAN Interconnection

Rather than a completed, autonomous text, I prefer a mediator, which stimulates the encounter between the internal and external worlds and ensures a good circulation between them. A work of art can neither become an idea as such nor reality as such. It exists in the interval between idea and reality, an ambivalent thing that is penetrated by and influences both.

My work is not the creation of modernist totalities or closed objects. It is important to create a stimulating relationship between what I paint and what I do not paint, what I make and what I do not make, the active and the passive.

Slight touches added to the canvas (once, twice, or three times) with hand, brush, and paint bring about a resonant empty space in the places where paint is not applied. Correspondences are produced between a natural stone, an iron plate, which is an abstraction of the structural elements of a natural stone, and the space around them, opening up a reverberating space. That is, by limiting the act of making and combining it with things that are not made, I incorporate externality and reveal a non-identified world.

Of course, a high level of spirituality that is capable of interacting with the outer world is required to give an element of the unknown to the work, and it is necessary to fully cultivate concepts, techniques, and skills. My approach is to form this kind of open relationship, which becomes a proposal for a new starting point of painting and sculpture that transcends an age of deconstruction and reinterpretation.

It is human nature to live by dreams of transcendence. Therefore, it should be hoped that artistic expression will lead to reflection and leaps of imagination. Just as humans are physical beings, points of contact between internal and external worlds, works of art must be living intermediaries that mediate between and exalt the self and the other.

(1999)

In: Lee Ufan, *The Art of Encounter*, translated by Stanley N. Anderson, Lisson Gallery, London 2004, p. 11