

Sakurai, Takami, A Philosophical Painter



paradise P30

It was in October that the Lambert Gallery on the island of Saint-Louis opened a solo exhibition of the Japanese painter Takami Sakurai. Since the first introduction of this philosophical painter in Paris, he has often been seen on the island of Saint-Louis. His paintings transport us to a world of unfamiliar dimensions. They reveal the inner world of the mind. He paints his soul.

His pictorial vision presents a very personal world structure. It can be described as a kind of mystic philosophy. His canvases give the impression of being images of his inner world and messages from his soul.

Sakurai has been in Paris for four years now. However, he has made few friendships and lives in a kind of peculiar solitary world among the members of a group he has created himself called 'Tickle'.

He has already lived for a long time in San Francisco, USA, where he promoted the Beatnik

movement and organised several exhibitions. He painted the murals in the San Francisco Museum. Sakurai is a quiet and calm man. With his work we can see his philosophy, the concept of 'Enjoyment of Destiny'. His canvases depict various symbols of 'destiny', which is beyond the power of human beings to control. Fate is to be indulged. After every favorable wind comes a headwind. Life is like a ribbon of happiness and misfortune. A series of alternating joys and sufferings. However, this transformation of life is only a temporary appearance. Everything leads to the Nirvana world of the clouds at the end of the dream. Sakurai's view of life and destiny is connected to this Buddhist state of tranquillity. Contrary to the Slavs, who see in destiny a heavy, dark force from which there is no escape, Sakurai sees in destiny a 'gentleness'. The final concise form of things. But how many paths are there that lead us to spiritual existence?

A crowd of people can be seen with their hands raised above a single canvas. This symbolises the enjoyment of destiny. And these figures, painted in a variety of colours, from red to brown, express feelings of joy and suffering. There is no organic, sexual or cosmic metaphor. It only shows aspects of the psyche. The woman holding up her hands is a symbol of life. The woman is the origin of everything, and the suckling woman is the mother of our earthly and metaphysical existence.

Sakurai is a philosophical painter who, with conviction, expresses on canvas his desire to liberate man in the light of the universe. Although he lives in Paris, he is not a Paris-obsessed painter, but rather, he may be standing in meditative solitude, sensing the flow of cosmic light within himself. Therefore, there are no significant influences in his painting style. If anything, his world is closer to the images of Indian Buddhist painting and Tantric esoteric painting.

In his studio in Bagnères, on the outskirts of Paris, he continues to work in the light of his inner self.

Lambert Gallery, 1977.