

Original Landscape of Salvation #1

Osamu Fukano



"The Girl in the Pasture" oil on canvas 1165x925mm 1951

He who has no music in himself, who is unmoved by gentle sounds, is fit for treachery, wickedness, and pursuit. His soul moves as sluggishly as the night, and his emotions are as dark as the underworld. Do not trust such a person! Listen to the music!

(Shakespeare, "The Merchant of Venice")

1

Kenichiro Terada's starting point as a painter was "The Girl in the Pasture" which was accepted for the first time in 1951 at the Nika Exhibition. He was 20 years old at the time. It goes without saying that he had been painting since before that time, but this work can also be regarded as his maiden work, as he himself, who went on to transform his painting style, has recounted his own trajectory through this work.

This painting has been hanging in a prominent place on the wall of his studio, which was newly built and relocated in 1966. "In a corner of the wall of my modest studio, there hangs an old,

worn-out painting. It depicts a girl with long hair sitting on a tripod chair facing sideways, with a row of poplar trees in the distance and a green pasture where cows graze peacefully in the background. It is a very lyrical picture, almost girlish at best. This is the work that won me my first prize at the Nika Exhibition 23 years ago," he wrote in a newspaper essay.

I think it was near the end of 1961 when I first visited Terada Atelier, which was located in Yakuin. It was at the far end of a four-family house. It had a small room by the entrance, a large studio with wooden flooring in the center, and a living room and kitchen in the back.

I did not see "The Girl in the Pasture" in the studio. The paintings on the walls were all dark and melancholy informel works with strong touches and hard tones. The darkness was unimaginable from the gorgeous colorful paintings he began to paint around 1970.

Roughly speaking, Kenichiro Terada's painting style can be divided into three periods.

1950s The era of lyrical (figurative).

1960s: The era of dark informel.

1970s: The era of bright colorism.