

A sign of the next generation

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Should we call them Art if they seem like just an illustration or Manga at a glance?

These kinds of works were sold for a high price during the art bubble.

Cute and pop art were popular and evaluated because they were sold a lot.

One day, I ran my eyes through the file in the office of YOKOI FINE ART.

Probably anyone have an experience to be knocked out by the power of art once at least.

However, I have hardly had such a feeling for several years against the artwork which multiplied during the art bubble.

I said to myself “At last the art bubble was over” and turning the page of the file with a sigh.

I sincerely hope to meet Art which carries away me again.

After I went over the file, Mr. Yokoi asked me to see the latest art work of Maeda.

Honestly speaking, I did not expect her paintings because they seemed like an illustration or Manga on the file.

A big canvas came into my view when I stepped into the gallery.

The painting titled *Gotten trace* was drawn a naked woman with a tattooed back.

This situation reminded me of the scene that the woman lay down when I open the *shoji screen* (the door of Japanese style).

The woman’s back had both of a desire and the darkness in her mind.

However I felt that she was graceful though it may be only the man’s point of view.

Her coquettish and fascinating world was based on the line which was minute and filled up the canvas.

What a big object is.

What an inviting painting for me.

The painting was different from the picture in the file at all.

Its beauty and details must be seen actually.

The origin of the beautiful line is generated by a ball-point pen which Maeda is using generally.

She said, “I would use a ball-point pen since my girlhood because I wanted to be a comic artist.”

Her artworks which give us an impression of illustrations or Manga were organized by above experience.

I asked her how long it took from the beginning on the plain and white canvas to the completion.

She said, “It takes 10 hours a day. I am working on the canvas in the daytime, and I draw on the small piece of paper before I go to bed.”

Her motion of hands which can be said obstinate support her artworks.

The time that the sold is good was over.

The time begins to prove that not only “sold” but also “the object which can give us strong impression with a high technique is good.”

Maeda might be working today in her atelier putting the big canvas on the desk.

She is creating the object for letting us know what only Art can achieve, as well as bringing out the next generation.