

**press release**

Paris, avril 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

Vera Amsellem gallery in Paris and Palais de Seoul gallery will be hosting a joint exhibition of the paintings of Seong Tae-hun in Paris from June, the 5<sup>st</sup> to July, the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Dreaming Rooster - Beyond Physical Limitations -**

By Kim Young-min

A rooster flies in the dark sky at night. It seems to be just before dawn when the black sky is at its darkest and deepest ever. Maybe it is not actually flying. Rather it looks closer to struggling to jump up in the air with its wings aflutter in order to impress itself in the darkness of the sky or it drifts up in the vast sky like an ad balloon embellished with advertising messages as it floats in the air unnoticed in the city. The rooster flies in the midst of the black sky with chicks following it as it sometimes transforms into a phoenix. It dreams of ascending the skies wishing for a great transformation as it soars high. It seems like a dream right before the daybreak.

A rooster flying at night in Seong Tae-hoon's art piece seems like a pole jumper yearning for the memory of its lost wings as it dreams of soaring. The sorrowful and solemn rooster is seemingly flung in the air as an allegory. The 'rooster' works as a mirror reflecting people, and therefore they naturally empathize with the rooster. The rooster crowing is like a superman foreseeing events in the future and at the same time it serves as a primal gaze missing its atrophied wings. In reality it is but a mere rooster.

It is a type of tragic comedy. The sadness of the allegory comes from the fact that people all know that it is their own story despite its reference and comparison to animals. It deals with trivial things and everyday happenings commonly found among the different kinds of stories. It is a mundane daily reflection similar to a mirror. It is as gloomy as their reflections in the mirror. Nevertheless, they still dream of trying to fly, struggling to fly, and finally being able to fly. Even though they may not fly, they never give up the dream of flying. Therefore, 'life is beautiful' and as such the rooster can be beautiful and sublime. The rooster flying alone at the end of the dawn feels solemnly sublime. It takes time, more or less, until finally recognizing that everyday is the most sublime and beautiful, and the grandeur of every day is an ultimate goal of art.

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The use of sap from the lacquer trees as a paint is indigenous to the entire cultural zone of the rice producing sector including Korea. It is one of the oldest paints that humankind has ever created. It is one of the best natural manmade paint. Its appalling toxic quality must have caused a great deal of trouble until such time when means for it to be utilized and finally applied for practical as well as creative purposes were discovered. It is possible to create a variety of colors depending on the pigments used. It also serves as one of the oldest craft materials along with baking clay. It can last longer than any other materials created by man. In terms of its durability it can withstand the rigors of the environment and the passage of time.

In other words, its durability allows it to have unbounded possibilities through its graphic and vivid potentials such as colors and unique sheen. It can be said that it is a historically proven pictorial material based on its anthropological heritage. It falls short if compared with Western traditional material in terms of diversity though. Probably it is due to the insufficient experimentation in the creation of the different colors when applying pigments using the lacquer. Therefore, its potential for development and innovative uses is infinite and is just waiting to be discovered.

#### **About Vera Amsellem gallery**

Located in the Marais district in central Paris, Vera Amsellem gallery has become a recognised gallery for contemporary art collectors. It hosts exhibitions of paintings, photographs and sculptures. Art, talent, and beauty existing beyond the scars that are frontiers, Vera Amsellem gallery organises every year two exhibitions with the Palais de Seoul gallery, one in Seoul, one in Paris. In June 2014, **Vera Amsellem will welcome the korean painter Seong Tae-Hun in Paris**; the opening will occur in the presence of his excellency the Korean Ambassador.

*For all further information or in order to receive high def images:*

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