# もの派とポストもの派の展開 一関係者の随想

東野芳明

「東京都美術館はボロフスキー展なんかやる前に、 菅木志 雄展をやるべきだったんですよ」

多摩美大のゼミで、ひとりの学生が吐いたこの言葉は、ゼリーの如き日本美術界の現状をすばっと切り裂いてみせた、いい発言だった。外国の最新動向には敏感な日本の美術館が、自分の国の地に着いた作家たちには、なかなか関心を示さない、といった、ありきたりの擬似国粋的状況批判なのではない。この言葉は、自分たちの現代美術を、手ごたえのあるレアリティとして受けとめ、実体のある歴史として語ろうという、至極トーゼンな渇望が、澎湃として湧き起りつつあることの徴候であった。大いそぎで結論にとべば、今回、私たちが企画した「もの派とポストもの派の展開―1969年以降の日本の美術」展は、こういう自然な渇望が生み落した、ささやかな試みのひとつであろうとしている。

発端は、多摩美大50周年記念文化事業ということだった。 なぜか大学当局から相談をもちこまれたときは、面喰ったも のだが、これには、私たちが、「芸術学科」という新しい科 の創設にいささか係わったせいもあったろう。芸術学科は 「芸術文化の主役は、なにも作り手の芸術家たちだけではな い。受け手の観衆、さらには送り手のプロモーターも、文化 の重要な担い手だ」という勇ましい理念から発足したもので、 とりあえず、同科教授峯村敏明と私に、なにか思い切った企 画を立てて見よ、というご下命があった次第である。私たち は、あまり宣伝臭の強い、大学べったりの企画はやめて、後 後まで問題を投げかけることで、結果において大学のイメー ジアップにつながる企画ならばやってもいい、という条件で お引き受けした。折しも、東京芸術大学が創立百年記念事業 を計画していることを耳にしたことが、どこかで刺激になっ た、かどうかは判然としない。しかし、芸大がよくも悪くも 日本のアカデミズムの中核であり、百年記念の企画も芸大の 歴史を見せることが日本の正統派画壇史の確認につながるこ とに主眼を置いているらしいとすれば、多摩美大としては、 臨場感ある、ただいまの現代美術にしぼってゆくに如くはな い。堤清二氏と館長の紀国憲一氏の共感と賛同を得て、西武 美術館が会場にきまり、美術館と大学の共同主催という珍し い形になった。もはや、一私大の内々の記念事業という枠を こえて、広い基盤に立った社会的イヴェントに仕立てなくて はならない。

ところで、日本の現代美術、といっても、一体なにをやる

? 現代美術という言葉がなんとなく、ひとり歩きしているが、これほどうさんくさい、漠然とした、坐りのわるい言葉はない。「近代美術」という方が滝口修造の名著以来,独特の響きがあって、漢字表現としても好ましいのだが、これは、第二次大戦以前の20世紀美術というニュアンスを背負いすぎている。日本では漠然と、第二次大戦後の、非画壇的な作家たちの、なんとなく前衛的な作品群を"現代美術"と呼んでいるが(もっとも、日展の作家も、現代に生きているから、現代美術"だという反論もあろう)、この水ぶくれした言葉には、「鏡の国のアリス」で、土曜にはハンプティ・ダンブティから特別手当を貰う言葉のように、そろそろ「意味」から休暇をとって貰わねばならない。いまでは「美術」のひと言でいいではないか(本展が「……日本の美術」と銘打たれたゆえんである)。

\*現代美術、の展覧会は数多く開かれている。50年代、60年代といった年代記的なもの、「象徴とメタファー」、「ボスト・モダンの病理学」といったテーマ的なもの、あるいは、1人の作家にしぼった回顧展、個展……そのいずれに対しても、実際に展覧会を見ての多くの不満は、死体を雑ぱくに扱う二流外科医の鈍感さ、企画者の理念だけが浮き上って見える思いあがり、または、個展作家にすべてをまかせっぱなしの無責任さであった。恣意的に作家を選び、ほどよいテーマでくくってみても、観衆は、テーマを見に行くのではなくて、良質の作品を見に行くのだ、という前提がないがしろにされている。つまりは、企画者が作家と一体になって、お互に硬質な振幅で響き合う、作品そのものを選び出す、という現場感覚が乏しいのである。それでも、なんとなく、\*現代美術、であるぞよ、というご印籠で許され、ぼかされてしまう。私たちは、作家えらびよりも作品えらびに徹することにした。

本展の準備中に、パリのボンピドゥー・センターで「さまざまな前衛の日本―1910~1970」展が開かれた。これについて詳述する場ではないが、造形美術の部門で、戦前の \*マヴォ\*などの運動から戦後の \*もの派\*までを総花式に辿った同展に対する、一般の不満は、1970年で紹介がシリキレトンボに終っていることにあった。過去完了形ではなく、70年から今日までの、現在完了かつ現在進行形の日本美術はどうなっているの? という声が多く聞かれた。私たちの企画した本展が、「1969年以降の日本の美術」となったのは、偶然のことながら、ポンピドゥー展の欠落部分を補充することにな

---いくつか目にした(「前衛の日本」展についての) ■■○
量評のなかで、パリのアール・プレス誌の女性編集 ■ まリーヌ・ミレーの一文は、とくに日本の戦後美術へ これで大変気になった (『美術手帖』4月号)。彼女は、 - マンスを、ニヒリズム、身体器官や材質への偏執、暴力 ■ ここの徹底性という風に語り、『私たちの西側の人間 ■ ■本のラディカリスム(注:過激性?)を、\*帰還不 ■ として見るのだ』と書いている。…… (中略) ■ ときめつけたのは、まことに深いアイロニーとして響 **しまり、それは、つっ走ったまま帰ってこない神風特 ニーシー**こうなものであり、その歴史は否定と破壊をくりか **自爆につぐ自爆の連続であったことになる。そこに** ■ ■きかけた巨船がいつしかゆっくりと揺れ戻るような - スの感覚、いいかえれば歴史の弁証法的運動が欠け ■ といわれていることになる。…… (中略) …… - 一の指摘は、われらが現代美術の特異体質をあらため

■ 1 日身の最近の語り口に置き換えれば、それは、日本 ・ 1 日本 ・ 2 日本 ・ 3 日本 ・ 3 日本 ・ 3 日本 ・ 3 日本 ・ 4 日本 ・ 5 日本 ・ 5 日本 ・ 5 日本 ・ 6 日本 ・ 6 日本 ・ 7 日本 ・ 8 日本

またもは前時代の(あるいは外国の、または遠い過去でもいい)作品そのものにぶつかり、くぐり抜け、それに自分の作品を生むという手ごたえなしに、状況ので、前時代を否定し、あるいは黙殺し、毎度毎度、ゼニューら出発することを否応なく繰り返してきた気味る。そして刺激と活力は、もっぱら同時代の外国製最

いう不毛な幻想がつねにつきまとい、戦後美術は、時間軸 上で弁証法的に連なりようのない、ばらばらな輪切りの連 続に終始したのである。

ポロックの画面がなかったらジョーンズの作品は発生しえなかったことを考えれば、芸術が芸術を生むという、至極マットウなレアリティを、われらが現代美術は中軸においてもち得なかったのではなかろうか。そのことをミレーは『帰還不可能な地点』までつっ走って自爆しつづけた『日本のラディカリスム』という言い方で表現したかったように見える。(以下略)」(朝日新聞 1987・4・21夕刊)

拙文は、このあと、日本美術のこういう特異体質は、じつは、小学校から、作る、作らせる教育が肥大化して、他者の作品を見る、見せる教育が欠落してきた美術教育に一因がありはしないか、として、人類が世界をさまざまに眺めてきた結果である美術作品を自分の目の記憶としてためこむことが大切なのに、「日本の前衛美術は、たぶんに目の記憶の薄さを、つまりは無知を、否定や破壊の身振りとすりかえ、取りちがえてきた」と結ばれている。この問題は、美術教育の最終章である美術大学に籍を置く身としては他人事ではないのだが、ここでは措く。

さて、ずばりいえば、「もの派とポストもの派の展開」展 は、日本の戦後美術が、作品が作品を生み、芸術が芸術を発 生させる歴史をようやくにして持ちはじめたと思われる、そ のささやかだが、屈折あふれる道程を、地道に確実に辿って みようという試みである。1970年の"もの派"の作品群でぶ ったぎりになっていた、ポンピドゥーでの「さまざまな前衛 の日本」展を、本展は、単に年代的に補完するにとどまらな い、と先に書いたのはほかでもない。フランス側が、自分た ちョーロッパの前衛美術の動向に呼応した(それを模倣した ?) 日本の動きを、まさに「輪切り」にして見せたことへの、 批判作業を目指したのである。また、多分にカトリーヌ・ミ レーの指摘する通り、「帰還不可能の地点」に 次々に つっ走 って消えた、自爆につぐ自爆の連続であった戦後の美術に、 内在的な弁証法的な歴史の運動が躍動しはじめた徴候のひと つが、"もの派"をひとつの出発点として多様なポストもの 派に展開していった、「1969年以降の日本の美術」であるこ とを実証してみよう、ということでもある。私の好きなジャ スパー・ジョーンズの言葉に、「ひとつの作品にたいする最

"Before doing Borofsky, the Tokyo Metropolitan should have done well to do a Kishio Suga exhibition."

These incisive words blurted out by a Tama Art University seminar student slice clear through the Japanese art world. Not the typical pseudonationalistic criticism of Japan's museums for picking up on the latest trends from overseas while neglecting their native sons, they speak of recognizing Japanese contemporary art as having its own palpable reality, a real history that bears discussion. And indeed, the expectations to which such utterances attest are the height of reason. So to jump to conclusions, we planned the present exhibition, *Mono-ha and Post-Mono-ha Developments: Japanese Art Since 1969*, as a modest attempt toward satisfying these most natural expectations.

It all started with the preparations for Tama Art University's 50th Anniversary cultural events. For some reason, we were all taken aback when the idea was first broached. Perhaps because we were involved at the time with setting up the new Art Science Curriculum, a bold initiative based on the proposition that the leading roles in the culture of the arts fall not only to the actual "do-er" artists, but also to the "receiving" public and "sendoff" producers. In any case, as heads of this curriculum Professor Toshiaki Minemura and I had been wanting to do something, but nothing so PR-like as a direct tie-up with the University. Ultimately we decided to plan something that would generally upgrade the University image through an ongoing process of raising issues. That's when we took on the project. Another impetus may have come with the talk of plans for Tokyo National University of Fine Art's Centenary. For better or worse, Tokyo Fine Art had long been the heart of Japanese academism, so that centennial plans to highlight the school's history would surely amount to taking role down the line of the orthodox tradition in Japanese art. All the better for Tama Art to focus on what was happening here and now in contemporary art.

Receiving a vote of confidence and go-ahead from Seibu Chief Executive, Seiji Tsutsumi, and Museum Director, Ken'ichi Kinokuni, we decided on the Seibu Museum for the exhibition, opting for a highly unprecedently co-sponsorship between the Museum and the University. No longer a mere commemorative function within a private university, we were now standing on broader ground looking at a public event.

That much settled, just what contemporary Japanese art were we to show? The idea of doing up "contemporary art" (gendai bijutsu) seemed somehow untenable. The very term, for all its currency, was nothing if not suspect, loosely applied and awkward. Still, "modern art" (kindai bijutsu) had a totally different ring—especially from the late Shuzo Takiguchi's famous book's title,—conjuring up images of pre-World War II twentieth century art. After the war, the blanket tendancy in Japan was to call the work of any non-academic artists with something of an avant garde leaning "contemporary art." (No doubt someone will counter that the Nitten Group is "contemporary art" inasmuch as the artists are living and working right now). But as Humpty-Dumpty might console Alice in Wonderland, it's about time we took a break from "meaning." So we settled on including at least the words "Japanese Art" in the exhibition title.

The problem with "contemporary art" exhibitions in Japan is that there are just complaint is the haphazardness of it all. The promoters' thinking is laid out as bluntluy as a second-rate surgeon tampering with a corpse; either that or the whole works are irresponsibly left up to the exhibiting solo artist. The "pros" flatter themselves that any passable theme can be applied to their favored artists, because it is taken for granted that the viewing public comes to see good art, not a careful thematic selection. That is, the promoters are one-in-the-same with the presentation, their own personality resonating hard and fast through all the works in lieu of any truly selective vision. Then they gloss over the whole mess with the label "contemporary art" to obfuscate the issues. We, instead, have taken pains with selecting works rather than artists.

During the preparations for this exhibition, the Japon des Avant Gardes: 1910-1970 exhibition was held at the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Here is not

the place to go into that show at length, yet I should report that the general dissatifaction with section on Arts Plastiques, which mounted a grand overview from pre-war movements—Mavo et al.—through to the Monoha, was that is stopped short at 1970. The entire perspective was in the pestense. Why was there no on-going view in the present perfecttense? Be happy coincidence, the present exhibition of Japanese Art Since 1969 fills that gap in the Pompidou show. And not merely as tiemline supplement we are assuming a critical stance toward the Pompidou presentation itself. In draw upon a newspaper article I recently happened to write on the Pompidou show:

Among the several foreign critiques [of the Japon des Avant Gardexhibition] I've had opportunity to read, I was particularly struck by facriticisms leveled by Paris art press editor Catherine Millet. (Bijuss Techo, April 1987). Therein she speaks of nihilism, a fetishist attachment toward bodily organs and materials, and thorough immersion in raw violence, saying "We people in the West look on Japanese radicalism as an irredeemable position"...

Millet's pronouncement on the "irredeemable position" of the poswar art scene rings with truly profound irony. Her view is of hell-benkamikaze fighters, a history of repeated negation and destruction, suicide-bombing follows suicide-bombing. Nowhere is this balanced against a sense of the slow ponderous swaying of a massive ship. In other words, we are said to lack any historical dialectic...

Millet's observations only serve to provoke us to reassert the "special status" of our contemporary art.

To put it in own my terms of late, Japan's post-war art is without arreal substance to bring forth works from works. Take Ryuzabur Umehara's works, did they lead to any later representational works that took them on and surpassed them? Had the works of Taro Okamoto Yoshishige Saito or the Gutai group never existed, would there have been any body of work that just wouldn't have happened? That is the question.

Without the labors of coming in contact with works themselves of the previous period (or of other countries or ancient times), without working one's way through them, and ultimately creating one's own works, changing circumstances would bring negation or conspired silence toward what came before. Like it or not artists would have a start from zero each and every time. All such stimulae and energies have come exclusively from the latest contemporaneous directions overseas. However much we would dress it up in the barren illusions of cosmopolitanism, our post-war art threads no dialectical time-line; it is all a piecemeal succession, this circle and that.

When we consider that were it not for Pollock's canvases therwouldn't have been any works by Johns, has not our contemporary amissed out on any similarly validating, substantial reality as its central axis? This seems to be why Millet spoke of "Japanese radicalism" continually suicide-bombing into an "irredeemable position"...(Assistimbun, April 21, 1987)

I went on to suggest that the special status of Japanese art might actually relate to Japanese art education, which increasingly emphasizes making art from primary school on, but does nothing to show or have students look at others' work, in spite of the extreme importance of building up one's own mental store of art works born of humanitie's myriad ways of looking at the world. I concluded by saying that "Very probably it is their shortness or visual memory, or rather an outright ignorance on the part of Japan's avant garde that has spelled their meaninglessly negative or destructive stance." These issues are of primary concern to me, associated as I am with an amuniversity, the top of the ladder in art education in Japan, but for now be me leave it at that.

Frankly speaking, this Mono-ha and Post-Mono-ha Developments exhibition represents the very first attempt to retrace steps in post-war Japenese art so as shown how one body of work led to another, a historical

survey of how art breeds art. A quiet, but sure start in the right direction.

This is what I meant earlier when I wrote that the present exhibiton was not merely an attempt to chronologically supplement the grouping of Mono-ha pieces just barely squeezed in under the 1970 cut-off date of the Pompidou's Japon des Avant Gardes. It has been our aim, then, to take on the critical assessment of Japanese movements corresponding to (patterned after?) European avant garde art, which the French side could only see as isolated circles. In this sense, the Mono-ha surely marks among first stirrings of an internalized historical dialect in the post-war art that Catherine Millet so aptly called a succession of suicide-bombings rushing headlong into an "irredeemable position." The present exhibition seeks to confirm the Mono-ha's position in Japanese Art Since 1969.

In the words of one of my favorite artists, Jasper Johns, "The best criticism of a work of art is another work of art." This approach transcends the critic's self-righteous categories, the historian's chronological imperatives, or even the artist's own preferences for one school over another. Set out all to see and experience, the mutual conflict or overlapping or fusion or estrangement between this and that work of art should lead to the amplification, convergence and hopefully a consolidation of the viewing public's own powers of perception. Thus, our selections and display of works in the present exhibition are intended not only to shed light on certain facts and historical proofs, but also to invite comparisons and reverberations between pieces.

Some difficulties arise because of the very name Mono-ha (School of thing-ness), which in recent years has gained international currency along with that of the Gutai group. Attempts to translate it have often proved embarrassingly misleading. The "Ecole de l'object" that appeared in the voluminous Pompidou catalogue tends to suggest collectible art objects or even the mass-produced "readymades" of the Dada and Surrealist movements, which if anything are the diametric opposite of mono in the Monoha conception of the word.

Last September through October when the Kamakura Gallery in Tokyo held three successive Mono-ha exhibitions, the catalogue text began with Toshiaki Minemura's definition that:

The word MONO-HA, whose literal meaning is 'school of things', designates a group of artists in Japan who were active both before and after the year 1970, and who attempted to bring out some artistic language from "things" as they stood, bare and undisguised, by letting them appear on the stage of artistic expression, no longer as mere materials, but allowing them a leading part.

Obviously an aesthetic language informed by the "essential being and properties of things" must refer to the natural states that things arouse, not the objectified things themselves. Not literally choses or "things," much less the Kantian Ding an sich; the focus is really upon the choseté or "thingness" of things.

Another point, whereas the same Kamakura Gallery text cites three Proto-Mono-ha groups—Lee U-Fan and the Tama Art University group, the Tokyo National University of Fine Art group, and the Nihon University group-the present exhibition does not include works by Koji Ekura, Noboru Takayama, Noriyuki Haraguchi or other members of the latter two groups. Not because of any particular favoritism toward the former, but rather due exclusively to space limitations. Which is to say that given the fairly substantial coverage given to the Proto-Mono-ha at the Pompidou and Kamakura Gallery, we have opted for more of a close-up on the Post-Mono-ha, from the late Nobuo Yamanaka to Mika Yoshizawa, while limiting the proto-Mono-ha section of the exhibition to six artists—Sekine, Yoshida, Lee, Narita, Suga and Koshimizu.

Furthermore, although the Japanese Art Since 1969 title holds with regard to oldest work in the exhibition (or rather its re-production), any recounting of the historical facts must proceed from the recognition that the initial impetus for the Tama University group came in October 1968 with Nobuo Sekine's commemorative marker-like Phase—Earth [Isō—Daichi], a cylindrical pit dug in Kobe's Suma Detached Palace Park and juxtaposed with a same shape and volume column of earth.

Finally, the "post" of the Post-Mono-ha is used here in the "postmodern"-not late-modern-nuance of connection in discontinuity. We are looking at a history of how works led to other works, how one art branched out into other art. Needless to say, certain of the Proto-Mono-ha artists' steps own travel the whole distance. For more detail, I refer you to the text of Toshiaki Minemura, who has been involved with these directions since he first collaborated with curator Yusuke Nakahara on the 1970 Tokyo Biennale Man and Matter [Busshitsu to Ningen] exhibition.

It is hoped that the present exhibition will provide both scholarship and an accessible immediacy. And moreover, after having prepared the exhibition concerning the School of Thingness, what interests me as the subject which would symbolize the art-scene after Post-Mono-ha, it would be titled "From Thing-ing to Singing".

(Professor at Tama Art University, Art critic)

Photo Credit: 安爾重男——5、7、10、28、37、39、44、68、69、70、71、72、73、74、114、 安原里为 5、7、10、20、57、55、44、00、05、70、71、72、75、115、116、126、137、139、142、156、157、162、164
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もの派とポストもの派の展開 1969年以降の日本の美術

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