

KOSEN RUFU

Aryo Toh Djojo & Sean P. McGaughey

F2T Gallery | Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milano
Opening October 27th 2022, 6-9pm

October 28th — December 3rd, 2022

"Art is the liberation of the humanity inside yourself."

Daisaku Ikeda

Kosen Rufu is an expression found in the Japanese translation of the Buddhist scripture of the "*Lotus Sutra*", informally defined as "world peace through individual happiness".

In a broader vision, it is peace towards the interiority, personal life and into the social environment.

Aryo Toh Djojo and Sean P. McGaughey, artists and friends, starting from this ideological statement become interpreters and witnesses of a common goal of their art: to deeply touch people's hearts to encourage their happiness. More precisely, the name of the show finds its roots in the aforementioned Buddhist ideals. Although Sean, Aryo's mentor, personally practices Nichiren Buddhism, Toh Djojo also embraces its key concepts, infusing these visions into his works.

By transferring this teaching to art, we could say that when we look at an artwork we can appreciate its colors, techniques, figures and further meticulous details. Below this first layer, in the depth of each viewer, a spiritual encounter between souls takes place: his own - of observers and human beings - and the one of the artist with his personal experiences.

The beauty of what we admired captures our gaze, the underlying message of the work itself is rooted within each individual with the ultimate aim of establishing a special bond with it, also capable of telling a common story. According to Aryo Toh Djojo and Sean P. McGaughey, this fluctuating sensation is nothing more than the main sense of art.

"Art has the potential to not just liberate the humanity inside the artist, but also the viewer and resonating inside of people's hearts and bringing them together."

Sean P. McGaughey

With a low-fi aesthetic, characterized by the atmosphere of Los Angeles, Aryo Toh Djojo (b. 1984) leads the viewer into a timeless - almost metaphysical - space outlined by the use of the airbrush.

By nebulizing scenes of everyday life and common subjects, the atmosphere drags the viewer into a state of meditation, suspended between fiction and reality. The airbrush, to this extent, combines the space-time dichotomy into a unicum in which concepts such as: memory, life and time are mixed together to go beyond their traditional definitions.

In Sean P. McGaughey's body of works, his Los Angeles provenance is so strong that it is a concentrate of spirituality, abstract expressionism and music. Perfect synthesis of the city in which he lives.

From John Coltrane's jazz music to Buddhist philosophy, his large canvases guide the viewer's gaze and soul into a world much wider than the surface who contains it.

The Lotus mantra *Nam myōhō renge kyō*, suggests the abandonment to the mystical law which - drawing inspiration from the lotus flower that blooms emerging from the mud - becomes a wider metaphor of liberation, happiness and general well-being. So, in the works of Sean P. McGaughey, colors, lines and energies interpenetrate, generating an unstoppable flow of sensations and visions, transcending the singularity to merge with the universal.

In this sense, F2T Gallery is proud to encourage this artistic message, welcoming its public into a suspended environment; with the hope that everyone can find a part of themselves within the wonderful puzzle of lives that is art.

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Gallery Hours | Open on appointment

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