



Woo Jong Taek – Memory of Origin

Memory of Origin – this is how the South Korean artist Woo Jong Taek titles his works. His painterly process always arises from a meditative attitude: the artist approaches nature not only physically, but also spiritually. From this state erupts the expressive brushstroke, oscillating between energy and stillness – an approach to the ancient, and to this day unanswered, question of the origin of all existence.

In his paper works, Woo Jong Taek combines the ecstatically charged power of eccentric calligraphy with a contemplative expression. He modernizes the East Asian tradition of ink and script art, translating it into a contemporary context and opening an immaterial space of thought that allows a memory of origin to emerge.

His works unfold in a swift, broad brushstroke, which simultaneously records the trace of his three-dimensional movement in painting. From graded tones of black and grey arise compositions that linger in the moment of the gesture and at the same time open a spiritual space. Woo's artistic stance draws from the internalization of opposites: past and present, tradition and progress, unity and distinction – transforming these ambivalences into a spiritually encompassing connectedness with the world.

His materials intensify this expression. Thickly applied colors, prepared from kaolin and burnt wood, create relief-like, three-dimensional surfaces that lend the painting an almost sculptural quality. Even within monochromy, an unexpected depth emerges. The result is a body of work that transcends the boundaries between painting, script art, and spiritual ritual. Woo Jong Taek succeeds in making the paradoxes of our time visible and in drawing the viewer directly into a dialogue with the origin of all being.