

Simon Raab comes to Korea for the first time

20 pieces including historical portraits at the Michael Schultz Gallery from 24th February 2012

Surface Tension, a solo exhibition by Simon Raab (59) who was born in France and works in America, will be opened at Michael Schultz Gallery in Chungdam-dong, Seoul on the 24th of February. The artist, who was born in France and grew up in Canada, is being introduced for the first time in Korea.

The artist received a Ph. D degree in mechanical engineering from McGill University in Montreal and used to work as a scientist. After being influenced by his uncle, a famous sculptor in Canada, he changed his career and became a painter. The artist has incorporated physics, mechanical engineering, and natural science in his work, inventing a unique method of painting by creating transparent color layers on large steel and aluminum plates instead of canvases using acrylic paints to change the surface of the aluminum panel. Because his paintings “exist in the relief form,” people can experience both a picture and a sculpture at the same time. The artist attributed a new term, “parleau,” to his paintings. The term “par+l’eau” combines the French word “par,” which means “to go through”, and “l’eau,” which means water. He created such a term to describe his paintings, which resemble the shape of light passing through waves. However, the artist also thinks that the term reflects his diverse background; his father was from Czechoslovakia and his mother was from Luxemburg, but he grew up in Canada.

In this exhibition, the artist plans to showcase 20 pieces including reinterpreted historical portraits based on historical figures as well as recent sculptures. The artist held his first solo exhibition in Germany in 2009 after he had become a painter. Since then, he has held solo exhibitions in various places in Europe including Great Britain’s London, Austria, Italy, and the Netherlands, in America and Canada. This exhibition in Korea seems to be an important first step for the painter, who changed his field from science to painting, in Asia.

Reported by Yu Na Kim