

**Research on Pursuit and Formation of Cultural and National Identity  
Constructed in Figurative Arts—from the Entire Region of Asia to the  
Whole World**

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**【Outline of survey】**

The object of this project is, first of all, to research the progress of pursuit and formation of the cultural and national identity in modern Asian region, examining individually and specifically on the most comprehensive and yet visually apparent and explicit field of art, while paying heed to traditional framework of figurative arts.

Second object is to study, in Europe and the United States who colonized virtually whole world as modern powers, what implications the figurative arts, on reverse, brought about to the pursuit and formation of those nations' cultural and national identity, focusing on the collection aspect of Asian figurative arts. The third phase includes comprehending the pursuit and formation of the cultural and national identity formed in Asian figurative arts multilaterally, applying Japan and Australia as two very distinctive and contrasting index nations.

The project schedule will be planned, to attain the above mentioned survey object, for three divided groups including painting, sculpture, and architecture units to perform domestic and international research, and the individual and specific study will follow based on the accumulated survey results. As the academic research, the project is characterized as unclosing the cultural and national identity while taking notice of the traditional figurative arts' continuity, based on the consistent analysis of specific figurative arts.

**【Expected results】**

The concept of identity is often discussed as the disconnection with the tradition. It is even argued as in terms of creation or fabrication. These arguments are both imperfect as they lack the recognition that the concept of identity, which is quite modern, has been quite often pursued and formed while continuity with the tradition still exists, with regards to the specific figurative arts. While comprehensively examining the continuity or discontinuity, and the creation or concoction on the basis of specific formation, the survey is expected to result in uncovering the underlying factor of cultural and national identity based on figurative arts, which is transforming from symbols of the modern powers to those of the present world urban cities.

**【References by the principal investigator】**

- “Paintings of the Five Dynasties and Northern Song Dynasty: The Origin of Historical and Cultural Identity in Traditional China,” **Kokka**, vol.1329, 2006, pp.23—32.
- “Perspective in Five Dynasties and Northern Song Dynasty Painting: Criteria of Traditional Chinese Painting,” **Conference on Founding Paradigms: The Art and Culture of the Northern Song Dynasty-Conference Papers(drafts)**, The National Palace Museum, Taipei, 2007, pp.43—70.

**【Term of project】** FY2007—2011

**【Budget allocation】** 29,700,000 yen

(2007 direct cost)

**【Homepage address】**

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