



Kill me Softly & M&A

THOMAS DELAHAYE
2008-09-16

Asia is home to new global challengers. Tata in India, Lenovo in China, Samsung in South-Korea, the list is growing everyday.

As in the United States after WWI, many of these companies have reached impressive sizes by being dominant on their (often huge) domestic markets. When they decide to compete on the global stage, they are already armed to compete with today's global leaders.

Unlike the early 20th century, speed is the 1st criteria for success in today's global market. Double-digit growth in some Asian countries is typical of the pace of these economies.

Unlike the early 20th century however, Asian companies do not have any inferiority complexes toward the West. They are ready to fight, with some of the same "weapons" the West imposed, such as M&A.

So should we care? Well... looking at this painting, it seems this Chinese lady is as young as her dagger is sharp. Her determination seems to be even stronger than the contempt she feels staring at this arrogant-looking pig... unfortunately, but most probably, standing for the decadent West.



Kill me softly, by Liu Ye (oil on canvas)
(Note : his paintings are usually sold at 6-digit figures) – he was unknown a few years ago... another parallel with Asian companies?)