

Conference Venue:

Kulturzentrum E-Werk: Großer Saal
Fuchsenwiese 1 – 91054 Erlangen

Thursday, October 27, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. The Twist of Fate: Political Absurdity and the Self in Gao Xingjian's Works
Tam Kwok-kan 譚國根 (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 9:45 a.m. Tracing the Unknown Fate in the Unknown Age – Gao Xingjian from Theatre to Cinema
Fiona Sze-Lorrain (Poet and Literary Translator)
- 10:30 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 a.m. Trap Revisited: *The Man Who Questions Death* and the Tragedy of Modern Man
Shelby K. Y. Chan (Hang Seng Management College)
- 11:45 a.m. 多聲部角色的多元生命觀展演：《叩問死亡》與《夜間行歌》 [“Performing Pluralistic Views on Life through Polyphonic Characters: On *Inquiring Death* and *Ballade Nocturne*”]; Paper in Chinese
Quah Sy Ren 柯思仁 (Nanyang Technological University)
- 12:30 p.m. *Closing Discussion*
- 1:30 p.m. *End*

Panel: “Fate and the Self in Gao Xingjian's Plays”
Chair: Jessica Yeung (Hong Kong Baptist University)

Oct 27 - Nov 24, 2011

Art Exhibition

“Gao Xingjian – Nobel Laureate in Literature. Paintings in Chinese Ink on Rice Paper”

Venue: Museum Tuscherschloss, Hirschelgasse 9-11, 90403 Nürnberg

An exhibition of Gao Xingjian's ink on rice paper paintings will be opened in the Museum Tuscherschloss on October 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. The contemporary paintings will be integrated as a second narrative into the existing permanent exhibition and presented as a fascinating contrast to the renaissance art works of the museum. The exhibition will take place from October 27 to November 24, 2011.

Opening Hours:

Monday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m./Thursday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m./Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Gao Xingjian: Freedom, Fate, and Prognostication

Fate and prognostication represent universal anthropological phenomena found in all cultures and civilizations, and play an exceptionally significant role in China. There is no other civilization in which fate and prognostication – two intrinsically connected concepts – have had such prominent status as in China. Strategies of coping with individual fate in Chinese modernity are closely intertwined with questions of freedom – a topic not only important in terms of fate and predestination but also in a political context.

The *topos* of freedom has always been of existential interest to Gao Xingjian, an extraordinary novelist, dramatist, stage-director, and painter as well as Nobel Laureate in Literature 2000. Finding freedom and dealing with fate present important and recurrent themes in his works. Gao himself often paints the picture of a “Wanderer” in the search for the self and the pursuit of freedom.

But what does the concept of freedom mean to Gao? How are questions of fate and freedom addressed in his prose and drama? Where do the quest for freedom and the self and the aspiration to reconnect with one's fate lead the protagonist? These are but a few questions to be focused on at this conference.

Additionally, three of his cinematic works will be shown to further visualize and complement the results of the papers given at the conference.



**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM
for Research in the Humanities**

*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*



Gao Xingjian

Freedom, Fate, and Prognostication
October 24 - 27, 2011 – E-Werk Erlangen

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Registration until **October 17, 2011**

via our website at
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International Consortium for Research in the Humanities

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Monday, October 24, 2011

- 9:30 a.m. Welcome addresses
Michael Lackner (Director, IKGF, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
Representative of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Birgitt Aßmus (Mayor of Erlangen)
- 10:00 a.m. 自由與文學 ["Freedom and Literature"; Paper in Chinese]
Gao Xingjian 高行健 (Nobel Laureate in Literature in 2000, Painter)
- 10:45 a.m. Literary and Art Techniques and the Quest for Aesthetic Fulfilment: On Gao Xingjian
Mabel Lee 陈顺妍 (University of Sydney)
- 11:30 a.m. 高行健的自由原理
["Gao Xingjian's Theory of Freedom"; Paper in Chinese]
Liu Zaifu 刘再复 (City University of Hong Kong; University of Colorado at Boulder)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. 2000年前高行健走进國際視域的偶然性與必然性
["Chance and Necessity: On Gao Xingjian's International Recognition Prior to 2000"; Paper in Chinese]
Liu Chunying 刘春英 (Jinan University)
- 2:45 p.m. Ten Years On: Between Memory and Forgetting
Wah Guan Lim 林華源 (Cornell University)
- 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break
- 4:00 p.m. The Aesthete as Revolutionary: Saving Art from Politics
John McDonald (Art Critic for the Sydney Morning Herald)
- 4:45 p.m. 通往自由的美學
["Aesthetics to Freedom"; Paper in Chinese]
Lin Gang 林崗 (Sun Yatsen University)
- 5:30 p.m. Video Presentation:
"Après le deluge" (30 min)

我不知道是不是命運把我推上這講壇，
由種種機緣造成的這偶然，
不妨稱之為命運。

"I have no way of knowing whether it was fate that has pushed me onto this dais, but as various lucky coincidences have created this opportunity I may as well call it fate."

Gao Xingjian, *The Case for Literature*
(Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech), 2000

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Finding Freedom and Reshaping Fate: An Exile's Disentanglement from Obsession in Gao Xingjian's Novels
Lily Li (Indiana University Bloomington)
- 9:45 a.m. Freedom of a Wanderer. The *Topos* of a Journey in Gao Xingjian's Dramas and Prose Works
Izabella Labeledzka (Adam Mickiewicz University)
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:45 a.m. 高行健之逍遙 ["The Free and Easy Wandering of Gao Xingjian"; Paper in Chinese]
Zhang Yinde 張寅德 (Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3)
- 11:30 a.m. 高行健小說《一個人的聖經》中的“性,自由,逃亡” ["Sex, 'Freedom,' and 'Escape' in Gao Xingjian's Novel *One Man's Bible*"; Paper in Chinese]
Noël Dutrait 杜特萊 (Université de Provence)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. On France and Freedom:
The Five French Plays of Gao Xingjian
Claire Conceison 康開麗 (Duke University)
- 2:45 p.m. The Concept of Freedom in Gao Xingjian's Autobiographical Novel *One Man's Bible*
Wang Liying (IKGF, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
- 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break
- 4:00 p.m. Video Presentation:
"Snow in August" (120 min)
- Panel: "The Topos of Freedom in Gao Xingjian's Novels"
Chair: Natacha Genz (University of Edinburgh)

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

- 9:00 a.m. Gao Xingjian's *Soul Mountain*: In Search of the Lonely Voice
Anurag Bhattacharyya (Dibrugarh University)
- 9:45 a.m. The Meanings of Nature in *Soul Mountain*, *Wild Man*, and *The Story of the Classic of Mountains and Seas*
Thomas Moran (Middlebury College)
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10:45 a.m. The Silence of Buddha: Triangulating Gao Xingjian, Brecht, and Beckett
Antony Tatlow (University of Dublin)
- 11:30 a.m. Waiting for Modernity
Carlos Rojas (Duke University)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch Break
- 2:00 p.m. *Wild Man* and the Idea of Freedom
Gilbert C.F. Fong 方梓勳 (Hang Seng Management College)
- 2:45 p.m. 傳統和自由：試談《冥城》及其戲劇版首演
["Tradition and Freedom in the Play *Hades* and its Premiere Stage in Seoul"; Paper in Chinese]
Soo Kyung Oh 吳秀卿 (Hanyang University)
- 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break
- 4:00 p.m. Video Presentation:
"La Silhouette sinon l'ombre" (90 min)
- Panel: "Fate, Nature, and the Self in Gao Xingjian's Works"
Chair: Marián Gálik (Slovak Academy of Sciences)