

THE 6th INTERNATIONAL SINOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2009 PTUJ SLOVENIA

Buy My Art - Problems of Art Criticism

Ida Hiršenfelder

In the following passage we will deal with the questions of symbolic and monetary value of Chinese contemporary art in the face of its unprecedented commercial success. Needless to say, the measures of quality, role and purpose of art criticism is many-fold, therefore I find it necessary to first and foremost identify the predominant questions that must be asked concerning this meter when speaking about Chinese situation. In order to understand our subject meter we must identify the following:

- a) Media platforms of presentation and access to Chinese art criticism
- b) Status and role of art criticism in the Chinese art network and the question of its (in)dependence
- c) Role of Chinese art criticism in the global art network, its influence, specifics and originality
- d) Protagonists of Chinese art criticism, different generations, educational background and position in the world of art
- e) Art criticism as a profession - who pays for the critics
- f) References (native or foreign) from which critics derive the system of values
- g) Is Chinese critic capable of breaching a wall of national pride with the success of "Contemporary Chinese Art" brand name.

Ida Hiršenfelder works as a critic and curator for contemporary art. During her studies of sinology at Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts she has developed a deep interest in Chinese Contemporary Art and has cooperated with independent curator Gu Zhenqing in 2002. As a critic she writes for Dnevnik Daily, Art Words Magazine, Maska Magazine and Radio Student all stationed in Ljubljana. In the past three years she predominantly worked at SCCA, Centre for Contemporary Art - Ljubljana where she is in charge of Station DIVA (Digitation of Video Archive) archive of video art.

Looking at and considering paintings in Europe and China through history till nowadays - A comparative view

Iva Valentič

Since the first serious contacts, when Jesuit priests operated in the workshops of the Chinese emperors, and the information about two different countries - European and Chinese - were flowing in two directions, until now there has been a little understanding, from the part of Europe, of the art that Chinese considered the most: literati paintings and calligraphy. Even today these two foremost Chinese artistic expressions did not gain their momentum in the so called western culture, although China now has an animated contemporary art scene which fills the appetite of western private and public art collections.

In this presentation we will try to establish not only what is the main reason for that phenomenon, but we will also examine the main influences that shaped the perception of visual arts in the past in these two cultures. We will see what proved to be essential in forming of the taste and opinion relevant for evaluation of visual arts and what was the position of respective master painters in both societies.

In the end, we will see what transformation are these traditional ways of viewing and evaluating visual arts undergoing today, and in the light of that, where the concept of copyright stands in both cultures.

Iva Valentic is a painter with the degree from the Venice Academy of Fine Arts, and has been a two-year scholarship student for advanced studies of Chinese calligraphy at the Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts. Currently is a first year student of Sinology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia.

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Philosophy and art – Comparison between China and Europe

Petra Milič

About a hundred years ago, it would be almost impossible to claim the existence of any other theory of knowledge apart from the Western. However, the fact is, that Western is only one of many epistemological discourses we can find in different cultures across the globe.

Because of different philosophical views in East and West, there are significant changes in all aspects of life including art. The focus of my presentation is comparison between two different traditions of thought; the classic period of Chinese philosophy (the golden age of Chinese philosophy) and ancient Greek philosophy in the time of Plato and how these two traditions have influenced the perception of visual arts, painting in particular, in both places simultaneously.

These ancient ideas of philosophy and consequently techniques and ways of presentation employed, shaped not only the arts of that particular era, but had significant influence throughout history of art in both traditions, well until the beginning of the 20th century.

Petra Milič graduated in Sinology and Sociology of Culture at the University of Ljubljana. She spent two and a half years in China researching the development of Chinese Contemporary Art and Western influence on Chinese Art. She was engaged in a residency program in Yunnan (Lijiang Studio) and has worked in a Gallery of Contemporary Art in Shanghai. She is now continuing her studies in a Masters program Philosophy and Theory of Visual Culture with a focus on comparison and cooperation of Eastern and Western Contemporary Art.

Philosophy and mysticism in Chinese architecture

Goran Babič

Chinese architecture has always been one of the most striking and ever-so-present surroundings of the Chinese. When talked about, one would often praise it with the words such as *superb, magnificent, grand scale and ancient*. Today it brings million of tourists and admirers to China and is still grasping the same words, be it ancient or contemporary architecture.

But what is hidden behind those cities, temples, palaces and gardens? Is there a unique thought that makes it so unique and mystical?

In this presentation, I will try to bring us closer to the way Chinese considered architecture and what is the symbolism of Chinese cities, temples and palaces, and Chinese architecture in general. How were Chinese imperial capitals being built, what is the meaning of the orientation of the streets, palaces, what is hidden in the numbers of a city. How can we read the Forbidden City besides its halls and rooms and how come that no matter what the scale of the buildings, they all had the same philosophy which influenced Chinese architecture.

Furthermore, by making some parallels with the European architecture, we will be able to see whether there have been similar approaches in Europe and maybe even influences during both European and Chinese history.

Goran Babič is postgraduate student of Sinology at Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia.

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On classical poetry and the current experience

dr. Sanxi Zhang

The main topic this article discusses how the correlation between the experience of classical poetry and our present survival experience occurred. First of all, as a way of feeling and survival skills, the art forces which the ancient classical poetry moves the people's hearts resides in today's readers' resonance on their life experience. Secondly, we have to pay attention to that life experience written in classical poetry has disappeared or is disappearing. Thirdly, the complex association between the poetry and the experience causes some Obstacles to the understanding of the text of the poem, therefore, puts forward the corresponding requirements. Finally, the poetry on war is taken as an example to discuss about the relationship between the current experience and the past experience, which relates to feeling and experiencing many things behind the meaning of the poetry works, such as the nation's cultural traditions, as well as emotional ways and other psychological structures, etc.

Dr.Zhang Sanxi is a Professor at the College of Liberal Arts, Central China Normal University, Wuhan City, China at the Department of Chinese Languages and Literature.

Lao She and The Rickshaw Boy; Analysis of Camel Xiangzi

Vladimir Jovanović

One of the most influential Chinese writers of 20th century, humorist, satirist, dramatist, Lao She, wrote and published his most famous work, novel "Camel Xiangzi", right before the beginning of Japanese-Chinese war in 1936. As a man who grew up in a very poor family and therefore had vast knowledge and deep understanding of the way of lives of people on margins of Chinese society he wrote the novel about the young man who comes from the country and tries to find a better life for himself working as a rickshaw boy on the streets of Beijing. Pushed back and forth by the cruel destiny of a man with no high position in society and thus no money and power to deal with problems which hit hard every person he changes both psychologically and physically. The decline of his, at first virtuous, character vividly painted how people like him go through life and how life treats them. In it's essence, this novel is a psychological portrait of a rickshaw boy through which the author shows almost all the dark sides of that time's Chinese society.

Vladimir Jovanović is a Masters candidate at Philological Faculty in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

Network language and Chinese's contemporary life

dr.Wang Qiaolan

The rapid development of the network has been accompanied by all sorts of profound and radical changes in Chinese society and Chinese people's life since the beginning of 1980's. Many fresh language material appear in the network firstly, then get wide dissemination and use by the public. This paper is trying to analyze its characteristics in the aspects of etymology, semantics, pragmatics, and discuss the dialectical relationship between network language and the contemporary society of China by citing a large number of examples of language on the network.

Dr.Wang Qiaolan is currently holding the position of Chinese Language Professor at Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia.

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"Whoever Wins The Support Of The People Wins The Control Of The Land Under Heaven"- A Critical Analysis Of *The Periodicity Of The Chinese Dynastic Changes* dr.Zhang Ruogu

This article, which begins with the Yan'an Communist Rectification Campaign from 1942 to 1945, states how *The Periodicity Of The Chinese Dynastic Changes* governs the rise and fall of the successive dynasties. By virtue of many characteristic examples, the article points out the four means of effecting the dynastic changes, with in focus the changes by means of the violent revolutions from below, looks at the essential features that characterize the principal means of the political changes, and criticizes the anachronistic views on the political status of the peasant uprisings in history, which are at polar extremes from each other in the different periods of our times, wherein a considered opinion is aired as to why we have been struggling through the institutional maze of the vicious circle, where the brutal violence is always committed to counterattack against the institutionalised violence, to bring about the transfer of power. The article describes the five periods of the dynasties that achieve the great political unity, and focuses on the bottleneck, the second period of a dynastic reign, in which it remains to be seen whether or not the newly established regime after the healing of war wounds is able to undergo peacefully the orderly transition and to create the prosperity and great order, because the period usually precipitates a few severe political crises, where the three principal contradictions tend to recur regularly through the ages. The article discusses the political and economic reforms in the period of the stagnation or the decline and fall of Tang, Song, Ming, Qing, which are undertaken to save the regimes from doom and ensure their survival, and explains why they are all delayed further or blocked by the conservative forces. And the regimes collapse eventually as it is impossible for the acute mounting crises to be eased and resolved.

The speculative conclusion follows in the article, where the livelihood of the peasantry, who forms the substantial majority of the overall population, is of crucial importance in ensuring the political stability of the totalitarian regimes. Only when they live a life of plenty can they avoid being marginalized in the class society, and made by some political forces, to which they always fall victim, as the prime instrument for executing the bloody dynastic changes. And, in connection with the political reality on the two banks of the Taiwan Strait, for the lasting peace and order and the eternal blessedness of the Chinese nations, favourable opportunities should, by no means, be lost, to implement the practical and effective measures to go ahead with the institutional design, creation and reforms in politics, so as to rock to its foundations the vicious cycle of order and chaos and rise and fall, and to bring an end once and for all to the bloody manner in which the political power is sought, not under the institutional procedure, but by force from below. The article explores the strategic combination of the three democratic types, the deliberative, election and negotiation democracy in order to fulfil the dominant role of the deliberative democracy, which reaches expression in the system of the political consultation and multi-party cooperation under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. It is expected that the popular feelings cannot be bottled up but fully vented, and hence the will of the people can be unquestioningly obeyed in such a democratic system so that their interest can be deliberately safeguarded and promoted.

Dr.Zhang Ruogu is currently holding the position of Chinese Language Professor at Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia.

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Between "East-Asian Consciousness" and "Sinic Civilisation" - culturalism in political discourse

dr. Helena Motoh

The paper focuses on the new terminology of culturalism that is increasingly prevailing in the political discourse. This conceptual apparatus proves to be especially common in the debates about the changing relations of power and dominance in the domain of the globalised international relations. In order to show the specific characteristics of this turn to culturalism two examples are analysed - Zhang Liwen's programme for the "East-Asian Consciousness" and Samuel P. Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations".

Dr. Helena Motoh has a PhD. in Philosophy and BA from Sinology. She works as a Researcher at Science and Research Center at University of Primorska and as Senior Professor at Faculty of Humanities Koper.

Creation and Recreation of Taiwanese Ethnic Identity, Culture and Nationalism

Neža Loštrek

A constructivist notion of national identity as a political manifestation of ethnicity that is negotiated defined and produced through social interaction inside and outside ethnic communities seems to be taken quite literally in the political milieu of Taiwan, particularly in the pan-green enterprise of the construction of the New Taiwanese identity. Nevertheless, everyday life in Taiwan bares abundant evidence that national identity there already exists, one of them being the existence of space within which the political battles of identity reconstructions are taking place. The 2008 presidential elections in Taiwan bare the following lesson: if you want to play a significant role in reshaping common identities - put the economic welfare on the top of your agenda! Drastic political reconstructions of identity in Taiwan seem to require a reason of urgency, which in Taiwanese political narratives forms an image of a zero-sum game that is transforming Taiwan into an environment of extremely low political tolerance.

Neža Loštrek is a Masters candidate at National Cheng Gong University, Institute of Political Economy in Tainan, Taiwan.

Driving forces of social crisis

Davorin Peršič

By characterization of social situation we are able to see economic crisis as a small step towards immense cultural devastation. Global political, economic and cultural life is not developing towards ideal of democracy, brotherhood and individual freedom, but towards oligarchy of the brutal kind, in that the power of the certain elite is immeasurably increasing. Situation of society in a certain way resembles the contemporary state of mind. Mechanization of spirit, indifference of soul and animalization of body are the inner aspects of decaying social situation. The main question of our research is: Is it possible to understand driving forces of social life in their living relations and act? If yes, than identity of social structures – what is also a key question of China and Taiwan relation – can be solved. If not, we have to except fable convenue, where – at the end – blind coincidences are leaders of our social life.

Davorin Peršič is postgraduate student of philosophy at Philosophical faculty in Ljubljana.

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Taiwan-Mainland Relations in the light of Global Economic Crisis

Dr. Mitja Saje

China is financially quite protected economy and Taiwan is financially rather conservative economy, so the financial crisis in the first round did not affect substantially any of the two. Both economies felt the impact of the global crisis only when it moved to the real economy and the markets of developed countries in America and Europe started to shrink. Because China and Taiwan are both export oriented economies the effect of the crisis was similar as it stroke mainly the sector of export production on both sides of the strait. On the other hand the growing sense of vulnerability in the whole region of East Asia caused stronger need for inter-regional cooperation in order to cope with the incoming crisis. In this sense the economic ties and coordination of economic activities between Taiwan and Mainland faced a new step forward bringing hopes for better cooperation. But among the most affected sectors of Taiwan's economy were the export oriented small and medium enterprises located in mainland China, which gives another dimension to the effect of global crisis on the Taiwan-Mainland relations and makes the question of the impact of crisis on cross-strait relations more complex.

Dr. Mitja Saje is an Associate Professor at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

New developments in the relations between China and Taiwan and the future outlook

dr.Saša Istenič

The study will provide an outline of the new trends in cross-Strait relations between China and Taiwan. Upon the administration of President Ma Ying-jeou's initiative the institutionalised negotiation mechanism between the two governments across the Strait resumed with a fresh impetus and relations have visibly moved forward. A number of policy restrictions between Taiwan and China have loosened and new agreements have been successfully negotiated and signed. Overall, domestic and international responses to the new trend of changes are very positive. Loosened regulatory policies have provided an unparalleled stimulus to the two sides' economic and trade cooperation. However, while the economic effects have largely been praised for their benefits, much more time will be needed to evaluate the political effects of the increasing economic intercourses. Understandably, any negotiating of the sensitive political issues, which are all inseparably linked with Taiwan's sovereignty, requires mutual trust of the two sides. Such trust is, however, yet to be established. Indeed, the two sides seem to have stopped competing for each other's diplomatic allies and Taipei has been for the first time since 1972 allowed to participate in a United Nations specialized agency activity (the World Health Assembly) under the name "Chinese Taipei." Nevertheless, despite an unprecedented new stage of cross-Strait relations, the problems stemming from the enhanced interaction remain broad and complex and the future course of relations still volatile.

Dr.Saša Istenič holds a PhD. from the Graduate Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. Her research interests are mainly focused on EU's, and more particularly Slovenia's, relations with Taiwan and China.

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Taiwan and the Chinese Mainland on the Road to European-style Integration? *A Neofunctionalist Assessment of Recent Developments in Cross-Strait Relations* Dr. phil. Stefan Fleischauer

The increase in economic exchange between Taiwan and the Chinese Mainland since the late 1980s has been the source of both expectation and anxiety. In face of the swift deepening of economic interdependence, it soon became apparent that the absence of official communication channels between China and Taiwan posed a major obstacle, and that some mode of contact would have to be established. The first attempt to establish a permanent forum for quasi-political consultations, the so-called "Gu-Wang Talks" between the two semi-official agencies ARATS (PRC) and SEF (ROC), proved rather disappointing: the Talks were discontinued in 1998 due to political tensions between the two sides, and had, until then, shown very few tangible results.

However, in the aftermath of Taiwan's Presidential elections in 2008, negotiations between ARATS and SEF were again resumed in June last year, and have since then achieved remarkable results. So far, the two chairmen Chen Yunlin and Jiang Binkun have signed six agreements since June 2008, and is expected that in the near future, an outline for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) will come under discussion. It appears that the question of Cross-Strait exchange is again preparing to enter a new stage.

While most observers agree that closer rapprochement between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits is both desirable and unavoidable, the long-term consequences of an ever-deepening economic interdependence remain largely unpredictable. In particular, it is often expected (or feared) that the deepening of economic ties will of necessity trigger a process of closer political integration. In this context, the experience of the European Union frequently serves as an example of political integration driven by economic interests and expediencies.

The presentation aims to explore to what extent the theoretical approaches to European integration can be applied to the Taiwan-China case. The comparison is mainly focused on neofunctionalism, which has been by far the most influential theory in the attempt to explain European integration since the early 1960s. However, two further theoretical approaches will also be employed: intergovernmentalism, which developed as a countermovement to the neofunctionalist school, and liberal intergovernmentalism, a more recent approach developed by the British scholar Andrew Moravcsik.

Dr. phil. Stefan Fleischauer is coming from European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan in Tübingen, Germany.