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1&2: 攝影藝術家馮建中與書店首位店員 Jo,於 2009 年初書店剛開業期間,合力粉飾店面。 Photographer John Fung and Jo, our first bookshop assistant, were giving final touches to the bookshop design identity back in 2009.

## 人造訪問幻想曲 (七):書店變形記 The Bookshop in Transformation

文 Text: thebookshop

位於香港藝術中心地下,中英文書並重,種類包括表演藝術、視覺藝術、 攝影、建築、插畫、詩歌和兒童書,還有談書的書,還定期舉辦藝術文化 活動。

Near the entrance of the Hong Kong Arts Centre, thebookshop offers a discerning selection of English and Chinese language books. Performing arts. Literature. Photography. Design. Art. Architecture. Illustrated fiction. Picture books too. It organises art and cultural activities regularly. 網誌 Blog: mccmbookshop.wordpress.com

多雨的 5 月持續擾人,希望 6 月的陽光能夠驅逐霉氣,每天陽光普照。一直覺得《藝訊》是刊載幻想曲的最佳場地,因為它幾乎是要提前一個月交稿的,時間的縫隙張開,總引發人許多回憶和想像。今年整個 2、3 月,書店都是鬧哄哄的,當時我們公佈書店結業日將延期至 6 月 14 日,新舊讀者紛至沓來,探望書店,更有朋友主動提出在告別派對中表演,以各種行動表示支持。往後消息過了一段時間,氣氛淡卻下來。直至過去一個星期,店員在書店又不時接到客人的熱心慰問:「是不是快要結業了?真可惜。這裏有一些在其他地方很難找到的書啊。」大家又再次為意告別的日子不遠。

然而,正當店員一邊想像 6 月中,夏至前一個星期的告別日,一邊苦惱怎樣在紙上不太悲傷地表現相聚有時、離別有時的情緒之時,一個全新的安排竟在眼前展開,如風吹散一切迷霧。

6月14日之後,書店不會離開藝術中心,而是以一種不同的形式繼續營運。書店以往由本地獨立出版社 MCCM Creations 主理,日常運作獨立於藝術中心。但在新安排下,出版社和藝術中心的角色均有變動,兩者將合力營運書店,由藝術中心負責人力資源、日常運作,以及搜羅本地藝術家創製的精品:出版社則退居幕後,以累積多年的專業知識和經驗,為書店選書,尤其是文化、藝術、詩歌類別的主題選書。

藝術中心的中庭翻新工程正在籌備中。出版社和藝術中心合辦書店的狀態,會持續至工程開始。至於工程完結後,中心亦不忘預留位置給書店,而且場地有望更寬闊。 MCCM 盼望屆時再與大家相見,繼續主理書店,直接與讀者對話、互動。

短短幾個月間,各方面的資訊變更極快,事情的發展柳暗花明。我們置身其中,除了心情反覆之外,同時也培養了一種猶如建築師的觀看方式:將環境中有限制的條件,獨國眾不同的特點,再將特點轉變成可能性,繼而發揮一書店規模小,即異常靈活;前境不穩定,即不透視限。在過去幾個月,亦即在這個與藝術中心合作的新有限,發源下,讓書店可以蛻變成不同形態,繼續與讀者報會,發源下,讓書店可以蛻變成不同形態,繼續與讀者報內資源下,讓書店可以蛻變成不同形態,繼續與賣者報報中心大堂,也會分身在原址為已婚警察宿舍、現活化作創意中心的元創方(PMQ)pop-up三個月!

書店於 2009 年初成立,至今已快五歲半,數年來累積下不少忠實的讀者和會員。他們一直以來的支持,讓我們在每個困難的時刻,均找到自我肯定的信心,要說離別,最不忍的也是看到讀者朋友驚訝傷心的反應。此刻知道告別只是以另一種形式存在,加上書店在 6 月的夏天將蛻變,以新面貌示人,我們既感興奮又驚歎,好像書店真正成長為一個有機體,以自身的魅力在瞬息萬變的城市中找到繼續生存的空間。

Here is June, with all the promises of Summer. Our word for the month? Transformation.

We thought mid-June would be the time for The Bookshop to farewell our dearest readers and friends, but change is often faster than expected – this time, a positive change.

We have created an alternative mode of operation. From 14 June, the Arts Centre will oversee the space of the shop, hiring sales assistants, and managing the store. The Bookshop in this new phase will offer both books and various arts-related items. MCCM Creations, the publisher behind The Bookshop, with its knowledge and experience in the book industry, will act as a consultant, help select books, and propose various book exhibitions.

This new collaboration will continue until renovation begins on the atrium at the Arts Centre. When the atrium re-opens, The Bookshop is to be given additional space, and MCCM will be glad to manage this larger shop. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Arts Centre, friends, The Bookshop members, and supporters who have ever visited us, offered help, bought books, suggested alternatives, and expressed their care — the goodwill has kept our spirits up during an uncertain time.

We have come to recognize the resiliency of a small team and to value flexibility and mobility. We have witnessed the transformative power of The Bookshop – while joining hands with the Arts Centre in Wanchai we will also evolve as a 'popup' bookshop for three months at PMQ, the new creative space in Central District, starting late June. Again, we thank all of our friends.

Summer comes, humming, transforming.

Good books remain.

20 | 其他 | Others

Others | 其他 | 21