

《食事風景——瑞士與中國飲食文化觸碰》

整理:潘詩韻 地下書店項目策劃

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五種不同的茶葉沖出了香濃的奶茶,用布袋或傳說中的絲襪溫柔包容混雜沖水倒進另一個茶壺,經歷時間的長短影響了茶味的濃淡,這分寸還能掌握得好嗎?若果把奶茶混進另一杯咖啡?那濃烈的飲料可是壓倒性的,抹煞了對方?還是保留另外一種味道:街頭的大牌檔從日常的爐灶上累積情理與世故混和了日常的八卦與通達,勤奮又帶點散漫的……那些說不清楚的味道

中國人聚在一起吃飯是為了建立關係,是交往的基礎,也是促進社會和諧的方式——食物,變成了溝通的形式。家人團聚,體現於同枱共吃;商務洽談、生意往來,以至親友相聚,都以吃喝為主。眾人圍坐圓桌,一邊暢談社會經濟大勢,一邊分享家庭軼事,一切歡笑眼淚,都落在滿桌盤子與口腹之中。即使家裡祭祖,都是以食品供奉。飲食對中國人既然有著如此重要的社會生活意涵,無怪乎中國人打招呼不說「你好嗎?」而會說「吃了飯沒有?」。

一班中國與瑞士的作家與藝術家,早前到訪香港、珠江三角洲及瑞士,在為期十四天的交流營中,探尋東方的飲食文化與歷史。瑞士與珠三角,同樣是多種語言並行的地方:在瑞士,國家語言包括德語、法語、意大利語和羅馬尼亞語;而廣東一帶,有說廣東話、普通話的,也有說英語、葡萄牙語的。除了多種語言,瑞士和華南的文學創作,似乎都帶著一種無常的況味,例如作品難

以準確歸類、突出個性、喜歡文字方面的實驗等等。我們看到, 這些表面簡約的文學作品,卻能夠以現代手法準確地呈現日常生 活:雖然它們往往超越現實,進入一個以形式和語言所構築的自 我世界。

是次瑞士與中國飲食文化觸碰的點滴,收錄於《食事風景》一書, 並將分別於今年九月的北京書展及十月的法蘭克福書展面世。 (內容撰錄自《食事風景》,MCCM Creations 出版。)

《食事風景》交流講座

來自瑞士、中國及內地的作家及藝術家,將分享各自在這次飲食文化的探釋之旅,作家羅貴祥、楊阡(深圳)、蘇惠琼(澳門)、Christopher Kit Kelen、思樂維及其他作家將誦讀他們的作品,也斯、Mary Ann O'Donnell 及 Martin Zeller 將談中國與瑞士的飲食文化,現場並放映旅途上 Milan Büttner 拍攝的錄像片段《inter-view》。

地下書店

位於香港藝術中心地下,書種包括表演藝術、視覺藝術、攝影、建築、插畫、詩歌 和兒童書,還有談書的書,中文書和英文書並重。書店將不時介紹一些讓人耳目— 新的海外圖書。

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節目詳情請參考 P.28-29

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Foodscape-A Swiss-Chinese Intercultural Encounter about the Culture of Food

Janice Poon

The Bookshop Project Curator

Tea-coffee By Leung Ping-kwan, 1997
Tea, fragrant and strong, made from
five different blends, in cotton bags or legendary
stockings – tender, all-encompassing, gathering –
brewed in hot water and poured into a teapot, its taste
varying subtly with the time in water steeped.
Can that fine art be maintained? Pour the tea
into a cup of coffee, will the aroma of one
interfere with, wash out the other? Or will the other
keep its flavour: roadside food stalls
streetwise and worldly from its daily stoves
mixed with a dash of daily gossips and good sense,
hard-working, a little sloppy...an indescribable taste.
(Translated by Martha Cheung)

Foodscape is a collection of texts and photographs created during an intercultural encounter with history and culture of food on a 14-day literary and artistic exchanges trip for Swiss authors and artists to China, and viceversa, for Chinese authors to Switzerland. During workshops, readings and public discussions, a linguistic and sensual approach made it possible to experience what is otherwise mutually foreign.

In China, eating meals together is a matter of establishing commonalities and a basis for communication, as well as a way to encourage the harmony of the universe. From time immemorial, food has been a form of communication, first with in the family, where togetherness is realised in common meals, then between business partners and friends to contemplate the fate of the economy and the society over food and drink, and finally with ancestors to be nourished with sacrifices of food. So it is not surprising that, in China, the daily greeting "How are you?" takes the form of "Have you already eaten?" Why Switzerland and China? A similarity between Switzerland and the

Pearl River Delta region is multilingualism: while Switzerland's national languages are German, French, Italian, and Romansh, people in Guangdong region speak Cantonese, Putonghua, English, and Portuguese. Along with this multiplicity of languages in a small area, the literary work of the Swiss and Southern Chinese writers seems to have a similar sense of the transitory, the literary sketch that cannot be precisely categorised, and a subjective style full of linguistic play. Behind apparent simplicity, modern and precise observations of everyday life can be found; often, though, they lead away from reality into a highly artificial world of forms and language focused on the self.

These valuable experiences and exchanges are compiled into *Foodscape* which will be released in September at the Beijing Book Fair and later in October at the Frankfurter Book Fair.

(Excerpts from *Foodscape*, published by MCCM Creations)

Forum on Foodscape

The writers and artists involved in this valuable cultural exchange project will join with local writers, sharing their journey in exploring the history and culture of food in both countries. Reading with Lo Kwai-cheung, Yang Qian, Sou Vai Keng, Kit Kelen, Madeleine Slavick, and others. Talk with Leung Ping-kwan, Mary Ann O'Donnell and Martin Zeller. Video screening of inter-view by Milan Büttner.

The Bookshop

Opened at the ground floor of the Hong Kong Arts Centre early January this year, The Bookshop carries a selection of art-focused books for booklovers – in performing arts, visual arts, photography, design, architecture, illustration and comics, poetry, and children's and books on books – in both English and Chinese. Occasionally you will also find wonderful books from other countries. The Bookshop is run by MCCM Creations, a local small press that specialises in visual and culture publications.

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Blog: mccmbookshop.wordpress.com

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