



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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亞細亞學研究

Chinese Maximalism Art Exhibition Opens October 18

by Kristin E. M. Riemer, Public Relations & Development Officer, UB Art Galleries

UB Art Gallery and the Millennium Art Museum in Beijing, China, in an unprecedented collaboration between an American and a Chinese museum, are bringing a groundbreaking exhibition of more than 65 works by 15 contemporary Chinese artists to the University at Buffalo. *Chinese Maximalism* will be on view at UB Art Gallery in the Center for the Arts from October 18, 2003 through January 31, 2004.

Chinese Maximalism provides a rare opportunity to see examples of works by Chinese artists

from the last two decades. It is also the first exhibition to address the concept of "Maximalism," a term recently coined by Gao Minglu, exhibition curator and Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History at UB, to identify certain trends in Chinese contemporary art and distinguish them from their counterparts in Western contemporary art. UB Art Gallery is the only US venue for this two-stop exhibition that first opened March 15, 2003 at the Millennium Art Museum in Beijing.

Visitors to the exhibition will find that the works on view share a visual resonance with Western Minimalism: soft lines, grids, and repetition abound. Beyond this, however, distinctive Chinese aesthetics distinguish the

artwork from Minimalism. In contrast to Minimalist artists, who focus on the distillation of form and color, Chinese Maximalist artists combine cultural practices and historical traditions with the act of art-making. Chinese Maximalism "emphasizes the spiritual experience of the artist in the process of creation as a self-contemplation outside and beyond the artwork itself. The material existence of the work is perhaps best understood as a record of this spiritual experience. These artists," continues Gao, "pay more attention to the process of creation and the uncertainty of meaning and instability in a work. Meaning is not reflected directly in a work, because they believe that what is in the artist's mind at the moment of creation may not necessarily appear in his work."

UB Art Galleries Director Sandra H. Olsen, elaborates on this concept with an account of her trip to Beijing last March for the exhibition's premiere, "My understanding of the concept of Maximalism was enhanced as I watched elderly Chinese men practicing the art of calligraphy on the city's sidewalks. They were using water! As each brushstroke was applied, the one before it disappeared. It was the process that held meaning to them as they struggled to maintain a dying cultural practice." As a new generation of artists seeks to retain both personal and cultural identities, Maximalism has taken root. Gao's essay in the accompanying bilingual catalog, with 66 color plates, further defines the distinctive, Chinese characteristics of the artworks in this

See **MAXIMALISM** P. 2

Asian American Studies

Stony Brook Professor Mar to Lecture

The Asian/American Studies Graduate Students Group announces a special lecture for Thursday, October 9, 11:00-12:30 in Knox 4. The speaker is Gary Mar, Professor of Philosophy at the University at Stony Brook.

Mar's topic is "New Media and New Mirrors in Asian American Studies:

Strategies for Transforming Knowledge into a Pedagogy of Empowerment." Dr. Mar is noted as an activist scholar in Asian American Studies, and has played leadership roles in the growth of Asian American Studies at Stony Brook.

A lunch reception will follow in SU 250.

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Beijing Opera Troupe to Perform October 17



On Friday night, October 17, the Center for the Arts Drama Theater will be transformed into a setting for China's most renowned drama form. A troupe of three actors will present *The Monkey Knows No Walls*, a lecture-demonstration of Beijing opera, focusing on legendary stories of the Monkey King.

Beijing opera has been the dominant theatrical form in China since the mid-nineteenth century. Its emphasis is upon rigidly controlled conventions of acting, dancing, and singing, intermingled with acrobatic displays. The text of a work is seldom strictly followed, for each troupe has its own version of standard works. The audience goes to see a production rather than follow a text.

The actor is the heart of the Beijing opera. On a bare stage furnished with a few properties, the lavishly and colorfully dressed actors speak, sing, and move. Actors wear makeup and, except for young heroes, beards.

Elaborately painted faces adorn swaggering warriors, bandits, and supernatural beings. Actresses also appear onstage. Costumes are heavily patterned and gaudy in color.

The troupe coming to UB is led by Ghaffar Pourazar of the National Academy for Chinese Traditional Opera in Beijing. He trained at the Beijing Opera School in the role of warrior. He also specializes in directing non-Chinese plays performed in Beijing opera style. The lecture/performance will begin at 8:00. Tickets are available at the Center for the Arts box office, at \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students.

At 7:00 before the performance, ticket-holders may preview the UB Art Gallery exhibition, *Chinese Maximalism*. After the performance, attendees at the meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies will be hosted at a reception in the Gallery.

The performance is sponsored by the Center for the Arts and supported by an IRCAF grant from the office of the Vice-Provost for Research. The title, *The Monkey Knows No Walls*, was created in respect to a thematic emphasis in Asian Studies at UB on walls. The October 17-18 meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies congeals around the theme, "Walls in Asia." In 2005, UB will host a major Chinese art exhibition, "The Wall."

MAXIMALISM (cont. from p. 1) exhibition.

A second exhibition of Chinese contemporary art is scheduled to travel to Buffalo from Beijing in October 2005. In collaboration with the Millennium Art Museum, UB Art Galleries, and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, *The Wall* is a large-scale exhibition that will be shown at three Buffalo venues. Also curated by Gao, who is best known for his exhibition *Inside Out* (San Francisco MOMA, 1998), *The Wall* is an innovative, multidisciplinary project focused on the concept of the "wall" in Chinese history. *Chinese Maximalism* serves as a worthy introduction to this monumental exhibition.

A private preview reception to *Chinese Maximalism* will be held at 7:00 PM on October 17, 2003 for all ticket holders to *Excerpts from the Chinese Beijing Op-*

era "The Monkey Knows No Walls" at UB Center for the Arts. After the Beijing Opera performance, those attending the meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies are invited to see the exhibition. Tickets for the opera are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for UB students and are available through the Center for the Arts box office, 716-645-ARTS.

Chinese Maximalism at UB Art Gallery is sponsored by WBFO 88.7 FM, the UB Asian Studies Program, and the 2003 New York Conference on Asian Studies (wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03).

UB Art Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 AM to 6 PM. For information please call 716-645-6912. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

CHINESE MAXIMALISM
中国极多主义

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NYCAS '03

200 Asian Scholars to Convene at UB October 17

Buffalo will host the annual meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies, October 17-18. Many UB faculty and graduate students have assisted the Asian Studies Program in assembling what should be a memorable conference. The conference begins at 1:00 Friday at University Inn and Conference Center, 2402 North Forest Road, Amherst.

Forty panels and roundtables will present the latest research on a wide variety of topics including gender issues in Asia, public health, Asian Americans in film, Islamic political movements, trade, and fiscal policy. Many presentations are framed around the conference theme, "Walls in Asia."

Special events include addresses by Harvard anthropologist James L. Watson, President of the Association

for Asian Studies; and Ayesha Jalal, Professor of History at Tufts University. Conferees will attend a lecture-performance of Beijing Opera in the Center for the Arts, and enjoy an opening reception for the University Art Gallery exhibition, "Chinese Maximalism." Publishers' exhibits will be set up under the skillful management of Charles D'Aniello of Lockwood Library. On Friday morning, area school teachers will gather for "Asia in the Classroom: A Workshop on China for Teachers."

This Asian studies opportunity occurs only once in a decade. For full program details and registration, go to <http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03>. UB students may register without fee in the Asian Studies office, 714 Clemens.

Students may now register for the B.A. in Asian Studies. Consultation can be arranged with the Director of Asian Studies. asian-studies@buffalo.edu

The Asian Studies Program continues to offer the Minor in East Asian Studies. Additionally, undergraduates can pursue language minors in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, and can focus on Asia in the International Studies Major.

New Major in Asian Studies



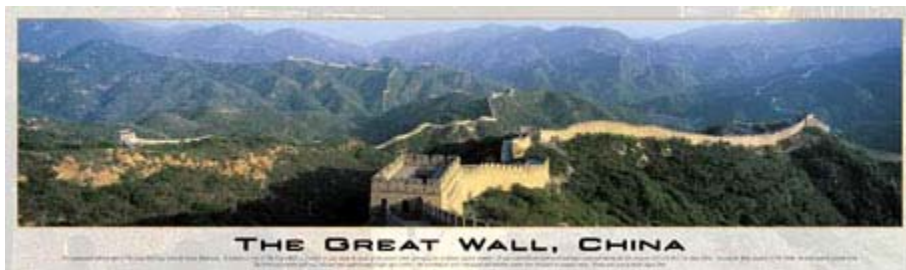
Prominent Japanese Philosophers to Lecture

During October, there will be three special opportunities to hear Japanese scholars of philosophy present their views.

- October 14, Tuesday, 4:00 in Park 141. **SATOMI Gunshi**, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Osaka University. "The Japanese View of Nature." Department of Philosophy colloquy.
- October 28, Tuesday, 12:30 in Clemens 640. **OGAWA Tadashi**, Kyoto University. "Are There Ethical Universals in the West and the East? From the Phenomenological Viewpoint." Sponsored by the Department of Comparative Literature, Eugenio Donato Chair and Julian Park Chair.

- October 30, Thursday, 1:00 in Clemens 640. **OGAWA Tadashi** (Kyoto University) and **Kah Kyung Cho** (UB Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy). Panel and discussion on East/West issues in philosophy, religion, and culture.

OGAWA Tadashi is Professor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies and the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University. He is internationally known for his groundbreaking interpretation of phenomenology from an East Asian perspective. He projects his philosophy as "structural phenomenology," in which the *logos* is understood as the key concept for investigating the dimension of phenomenology.



OPPORTUNITIES, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

**Library of Congress Fellowships
in International Studies**

JET Program

The Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program aims to promote internationalization in Japan by inviting young overseas graduates to assist in international exchange and foreign language education in Japanese local governments, boards of education and junior and senior high schools throughout Japan. The program consists of different positions depending on applicants qualifications, including ALT (Assistant Language Teacher). For more information: <http://www.jetprogramme.org/e/index.html>

**American Research in the
Humanities in the People's Republic of China**

- Deadline: November 15, 2003 for submitting completed application.
- Amount: monthly stipend and travel allowance.
- Tenure: Four to twelve months between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2005.

Decisions will be announced in April 2004. This program is for scholars in the humanities to do research in the People's Republic of China. It supports individuals, with the Ph.D. or equivalent, to do in-depth research on China or the Chinese portion of a comparative study. A paper copy of the application packet may also be requested from grants@acl.org or by writing to: Office of Fellowships and Grants, American Council of Learned Societies, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017-6795. For more information: <http://www.acls.org/cscguid.htm>

- Stipend: \$3,500 per month
 - Tenure: Four to nine months to be initiated between July 1, 2004 and February 1, 2005
 - Completed applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application system (ofa.acls.org) no later than 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, November 3, 2003.
- Decisions will be announced in late March 2004.

The Library of Congress, the Association of American Universities, and the American Council of Learned Societies are pleased to announce the Library of Congress Fellowships in International Studies, supporting postdoctoral research in all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences using the foreign language collections of the Library of Congress. Proposals in multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies are also welcome, as are proposals focused on single or multiple geographical areas. For more Information: <http://www.acls.org/locguide.htm>

Fulbright IEA Seminars

The program for International Education Administrators (IEA) offered by the Fulbright commissions in Germany, Japan or Korea consists of two- to three- week summer seminars which provide background on the host country's culture, society and system of higher education. In addition to presentations by specialists, the programs include meetings with government and university officials and site visits to campuses. For more information: www.cies.org Hard copies of application materials are available upon request. Contact David Adams for the seminars in Japan or Korea: Senior Program Officer, dadams@cies.iee.org, 202.686.4021. The deadline is **November 1, 2003**.

Japan Focus Website

Japan Focus is a new electronic site that provides access to important contemporary writing about Japan in the world. It offers Japanese and international perspectives on contemporary Japanese politics, U.S.-Japan-Asia relations, economics, society and social movements, war and terror, and historical memory. Japan focus presents translations from Japanese journals and newspapers as well as original contributions. You can consult Japan Focus at <http://www.japanfocus.org>

Helping the Asian Studies Program

As the Asian Studies Program continues to grow, persons and institutions in the community can help the program meet its goals. Here are some projects that will become a reality only with donor support:

- Asian arts residencies
- Lecture series
- Scholar research
- Growth of the East Asian Collection of the Lockwood Library
- New faculty positions

Funds may be donated for endowment or specific projects. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. For consultation, contact the Director of Asian Studies, (716)645-3474; asian-studies@buffalo.edu.

Asia at Noon, October 24

Translating Classical Chinese Verse

Asia at Noon, the Asian Studies Program's ongoing series of brown bag lunch discussions, will feature Jonathan Stalling, Ph.D. student in English, on October 24. The gathering for students, faculty, and community friends will take place from 12:00 to 1:00 in Park 280. Stalling's presentation is titled "Translating for the Sound of It: Radical Translations of Song Dynasty Lyric Verse."

Stalling will discuss how twentieth century translators of Chinese poetry, like modern poetry in general, moved away from meter and rhyme preferring the freedom of free verse. According to Stalling, however, this practice elides the fundamental importance of sound to both the compositional constraints and aesthetic reception of classical Chinese poetry. In this talk, therefore, Stalling will introduce methods of translating classical Chinese verse that attempt to reproduce the originals sonic form by blurring the linguistic characteristics of Eng-

lish and Chinese. The resulting translations challenge normal notions of what English poetry can be, while allowing non-Chinese speakers access to poetic meanings through unfamiliar songs.

Jonathan Stalling studied Mandarin Chinese at the University of Hawaii, Beijing University, and UC Berkeley where he obtained his B.A. in Chinese Studies. He lectured on Chinese language and poetry at Berkeley. Presently, Stalling holds a McNulty Fellowship in Ethnopoetics at UB in the English Department's Poetics Program. For several semesters he has taught an Asian American-focus section of UGC 211: *American Pluralism*. His most recent translations of Chinese poetry and critical writing on translation are published in the journal *Chain*, the magazine *Verdure*, *The Boston Review*, and the forthcoming *A Companion to 20th Century American Poetry*.

Convening this session of Asia at Noon will be Herbert Batt, independent scholar and translator of Chinese literature.

CISP lecture series

Noted Indian Historian to Speak October 17

Ayesha Jalal, Professor of History at Tufts University and recognized authority on Indo-Pakistan Partition, will lecture at UB on Friday, October 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the SU Theater. Her presentation is titled "The Partisans of Allah: Jihad in Theory and History."

With her doctorate in history from the University of Cambridge, Professor Jalal is also a MacArthur fellow. She has taught at the University of Wisconsin, Tufts University, Columbia University, and Harvard University. Her most recent book is *Self and Sovereignty: the Muslim Individual and the Community*



of Islam in South Asia since c.1850 (Routledge, 2000; Oxford University Press, 2001). She serves on the editorial boards of the Contemporary South Asian Studies Series of Cambridge University Press and the journals *Third World Quarterly* and *Zameen*.

Professor Jalal comes to Buffalo as the Keynote Speaker at the annual meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies, October 17-18 at University Inn and Conference Center. She will speak there at the luncheon on Saturday, October 18, on the theme of "Holes in the Wall: India's Partition Revisited."

Professor Kah Kyung Cho's Expertise Valued in Japan

Prof. Kah Kyung Cho, Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Philosophy, was invited to be a Prize Nominator for the 2004 Kyoto Prize in the category of Philosophy and Art. The Kyoto Prize is Japan's most prestigious international science and culture prize. Past laureates in philosophy include Noam Chomsky, Karl Popper, Willard van Orman Quine, and Paul Ricoeur.

Cho also served as a panelist and commentator at the Kyoto Conference on International Cooperation to Integrate Diverse Environmental Studies, September 29-October 2.

Narrative Paintings From India

Narrative Paintings from India are on exhibition at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University from September 21, 2003 to January 4, 2004. This exhibition presents the long history of traditional paintings from three regions of India and reveals the intertwining relationship between Indian narrative, ritual, and visual artistic expression. It is free and open to the public.

Asian Studies Calendar

October

- Oct. 9, Thur. 11:00-12:30. **Gary Mar**, Professor of Philosophy at the University at Stony Brook. "New Media and New Mirrors in Asian American Studies: Strategies for Transforming Knowledge into a Pedagogy of Empowerment." Knox 4.
- Oct. 14, Tues. 4:00 p.m. **SATOMI Gunshi**, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Osaka University, Japan. "The Japanese View of Nature." Department of Philosophy Colloquy. Park 141.
- Oct. 17, Fri. 3:30 p.m. **Prof. Jalal**, "Partisans of Allah: Meaning of Jihad in South Asia." Sponsored by CISP/History department. Student Union Theater.
- Oct. 17, Fri. 8:00 p.m. **Beijing Opera: *The Monkey Knows No Walls***. CFA Drama Theater.
- Oct. 17-18, Fri.-Sat. The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS). University Inn and Conference Center in Amherst. Please check the website: wings.buffalo.edu/asian/NYCAS03 for details.

▪ Oct. 24, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Jonathan Stalling**, Ph.D. student in English. "Translating for the Sound of It: Experimental Translations of Song Dynasty Lyric Verse." Convener, **Herbert Batt**, independent scholar. Park 280.

▪ Oct. 28, Tue. 12:30 p.m. **OGAWA Tadashi**, Kyoto University. "Are There Ethical Universals in the West and the East? From The Phenomenological Viewpoint" Clemens 640.

▪ Oct. 30, Thu. 1:00 p.m. **OGAWA Tadashi** and **Kah Kyung Cho**, Kyoto University. Panel and Discussion on East/West issues in philosophy, religion, and culture. Clemens 640.

November

▪ Nov. 21, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Mark Ashwill**, Department of Linguistics. "Vietnam and America: Overcoming the Past." Park 280.

▪ Nov. 21, Fri. 8:00 p.m. **Korean Masked Dance**. *Dongnae Yaryu: Korean Masked Dance*. CFA Mainstage.



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CAMPUS

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