Eileen Chang: Hong Kong Legend (1939~1941) Exhibition

G/F HKU Main Library
Oct 15 ~ Nov 05, 2007
Eileen Chang: Hong Kong Legend (1939~1941)

"I have a dream that I have arrived in Hong Kong again. It is midnight when the ship docks at the pier in the pouring rain."

My View on St Qing, Eileen Chang

Eileen Chang was admitted to HKU's Faculty of Art in 1939, where she excelled academically. However, when Hong Kong fell in the Japanese in 1941, Chang had to suspend her studies and return to Shanghai. Her Hong Kong experience was critical for her later emergence as a legend in the world of literature.

天才尋夢
My dream as a genius

"I am a strange girl who has been treated as a genius since childhood. I have no other purpose in life but to develop my genius qualities."

《我的天才夢》張愛玲

在香港是張愛玲成名的舞台，自小被視為文壇奇才，艱苦的成長編出的《天才夢》，寫出《西風》雜誌徵文比賽的題目，就是《我的天才夢》。
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Panel 03, 04
《色，戒》: 由文本到电影
“Lust, Caution” — from text to screen

“借港大的教室上课，上课下课挤得黑压压的挨挨挤挤……，不免有寄人篱下之感。香港一般人对国事漠不关心的态度也使人懊恼。”

《色，戒》張愛玲

“We borrowed classrooms from The University of Hong Kong. We were packed and cramped between classes, feeling like second class citizens. It is infuriating that Hong Kong people are insensitive to what's happening to our country.”

Lust, Caution, Eileen Chang

The 1986 film "Lust, Caution," directed by Ang Lee, is an adaptation of Chang's short story of the same name. Set in wartime Shanghai, it tells the story of a group of revolutionary students who plot the assassination of a rogue politician who collaborates with the Japanese. The story reflects Chang's personal experience during the war years.

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手稿自辩  
A note defending herself  
"小說裡寫反派人物，是否不應當進入他們的內心？"  
《放下你的手》張愛玲  
"We wrote about the villain in fiction. Should we not try to look into his heart?"  
On Last Citation, Eileen Chang  

電影《色，戒》全球播出，但張愛玲雖寫於1935年，已為二十多才成年短篇小說。該片票房成功，張愛玲並歡迎之，她也罕有的放筆自辯。  
While the movie "Lust, Caution" has drawn global acclaim, it has also attracted criticisms. Chang has been cautious of not opposing the authorities sufficiently even in criticism. It was not until her later years that she wrote and published a series of short stories dedicated to the people of Shanghai.
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"Thousands of miles, two years, new things, new people. My experience in wartime Hong Kong has imprinted on me an intimate and powerful influence of which I was not aware at the time."

From the novel, "Shanghai Blues"

Project for Public Culture

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