

School of Asian Studies Centre for Comparative Literature

Bilingual poetry reading by famed 'misty poet' Yang Lian



楊煉

Monday October 15th 2001

Conference Centre Lecture Theatre 12.00-2.00
(accessed via main entrance to Architecture)

English translations read by Jacob Edmond. All welcome.

"Every day you climb the stairs you think: this is exile. Feel every step carefully. Miss a step and the whole world comes tumbling down on you. Each step could be a chapter, this two-storeyed house a great epic of humanity in exile. Still it's not you. You can't speak of a feeling you can't grasp. So when someone mentions reality, you want to laugh. "

excerpt from *Ghostspeak* a meditation on writing in exile written in Auckland.
<http://www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz/authors/yang/ghostspeak.ptml>

Yang Lian is in Auckland to read for the **new zealand electronic poetry centre** [www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz] which features work written during his time exiled in New Zealand after the Tian'anmen Incident in 1989. This reading offers a rare chance to hear this entertaining poet read a wider range of his works. Come and learn more about dissidence and exile in contemporary Chinese poetry. There will be ample opportunity for discussion with Yang Lian.

Yang Lian was a prominent member the group of experimental poets associated with the underground magazine *Today*. Misty (or obscure) was a derogatory label applied to them by the authorities in an unsuccessful attempt to dismiss their avant garde challenge to socialist realist hegemony. Yang left China on the eve of the Tian'anmen Incident and became exiled in New Zealand – he holds New Zealand nationality – and is currently based in London.

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