

Friday, 25th of April, 7pm

HONG KONG Hongkong HK

Martin Zeller – “The Diagonal Mirror, Space and Time in Hong Kong”

Book Release

Reading and discussion about one of the world's most fascinating cities in which tradition and modernity, Chinese and western culture are linked in a highly enthralling manner.

Wolfgang Kubin, professor of Chinese Studies at Bonn University, also translator and writer presents his volume of short stories “Halbzeit einer Liebe”, 2006

Heinz Stahlhut, director of the Collection of Fine Arts at the Berlinische Galerie and the photographer **Martin Zeller** talk about “The Diagonal Mirror, Space and Time in Hong Kong”, 2008

Leung Ping-kwan, writer and professor of Chinese Literature and Film History at Lingnan University in Hong Kong, reads his new poems and speaks with **Wolfgang Kubin**.

In addition a discussion follows with Wolfgang Kubin, Leung Ping-kwan, Heinz Stahlhut and Martin Zeller about culture and society in Hong Kong.

In “The Diagonal Mirror”, Martin Zeller documents the rapid changes that have taken place in Hong Kong during the past three years in terms of urban planning, the structure of space and social developments. Both in classical Chinese painting and the dense Asian cityscapes of today, the absence of a horizon and a vanishing point, and the resulting lack of a spatial hierarchy, creates what is for Western sensibilities a completely artificial feeling of space. Taking this alienating experience as his point of departure, Zeller has photographed the urban landscape in extremely high and wide formats and installed the excerpts overlapping diagonally across the wall. His work can be seen in his book “The Diagonal Mirror, Space and Time in Hong Kong” that was recently published by Kehrer Verlag.

Leung Ping-kwan is one of Hong Kong's leading men of letters, a literary, film and culture critic, a professor of Chinese Literature and a contemporary Chinese language poet of the first rank. He now teaches literature and film at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. As a writer and multimedia artist he has published a novel, various volumes of short stories, poems and essays. He is furthermore well-known as translator and film critique. In 1991 he received the literature award of the city of Hong Kong as the first laureate.

Wolfgang Kubin is professor of Chinese Studies at Bonn University and works as a translator and a writer, too. He was associate professor at Berlin University in the Eastern Asian Seminar where he taught Chinese Literature and Art. As a translator of Chinese prose and poetry he is well-known beyond the boundaries of Chinese Studies. His best known work is the six-volume translation of Xu Luns short stories and essays. Last appeared the short story “Halbzeit einer Liebe. Eine Erzählung” (2006).

Heinz Stahlhut studied Art History, History and Classical Archaeology in Berlin and Basle. He was assistant at the Department for Art History at the University of Basle and at the School for Design of Basle. He was furthermore scientific assistant at the Foundation Beyeler and from 1999-2008 at the Museum Tinguely; since 2001 curator of various exhibitions, such as “Edgard Varèse”, 2006 and “Situationist Internationale”, 2007. Since April 2008 director of the Collection of Fine Arts at the Berlinische Galerie - Museum for Modern Art, Photography and Architecture.

Martin Zeller was awarded the European Photography Award in Arles in 1990 for his first art project, “412 – 432”, a photographic reflection on the same kilometres of the Rhine at night. At first he frequently created large format photo works of the stone metropolis with broad building lines (“Berlin”, 1997). Later Zeller turned his attention to the picture space as a site of the overlapping of visual information – and thus to the multi-layeredness of the pictorial itself (“The Transfigured Night”, 2002). International prizes and scholarships enabled Zeller to realize projects abroad, including “Roma”, 1999 and “China Transition”, 2003.