

New Media Art of China and its Cultural Context

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Abstract

In the early 21st century, the value of contemporary Chinese art inordinately escalated along with China's astounding rise in the world economy. Since then, some of the internationally renowned contemporary artists of China have begun dabbling in technological media. In my research, I have found that the content of this new media art, which may appear European on the surface, often contains subtle ethical messages that may be rooted in Chinese history and philosophy. This presentation analyzes artwork by Xu Bing, Miao Xiaochun, Hu Jieming and others who have incorporated electronic media into their work.

Bionote

Dr. Jean M. Ippolito is a Professor and Art Historian at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She is noted for her research and publications on the pioneering digital media art of Japan. Her monograph, *The Search for New Media: Art and Technology in Late 20th Century Japan* was published in Common Ground: Arts in Society series in 2012. Recently she has redirected her studies to contemporary China, as a number of renowned artists of China have been incorporating digital media technology into their work. Her 2017 article in *Leonardo: Journal of the International Society of Arts, Sciences and Technology*, is entitled "Electronic Media Art from China: New Visions Bring Messages from the Distant Past," and it compares the content of some of this new media art with adages from ancient Chinese philosophical texts like the Dao Dejing and Zhuangzi. Currently, Dr. Ippolito is working on a book manuscript entitled, "New Visions for the 21st Century: Electronic Media Art from China."



Rico J. Puno and the Mainstreaming of Soul Music in the Philippines (1976-1980)

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Abstract

The mainstreaming of soul music in the Philippines began with the emergence of Rico J. Puno. Puno, who died of heart failure on 30 October 2018, was known to be “The Total Entertainer”, an exponent of Manila Sound, which evolved into what is now popularly known as Original Pilipino Music (OPM). While soul music originated from Black experiences in America during the late 1950s and 1960s, many of Puno’s hits, such as “Kapalaran” (Fate, 1976), Ang Tao’y Marupok (To Err is Human, 1977), “May Bukas Pa” (There is still tomorrow, 1978), “Lupa” (Earth, 1979) , and “Diyos ang pag-ibig” (God is love, 1980), appropriated many elements of the genre—gospel-style melodic patterns, secular lyrics, as well as R&B orchestrations. But Puno’s raspy and funky transmutation of these elements contained a strong Philippine subject-position. By so doing, Puno repossessed the genre to propel the direction of popular music in the Philippines during the late 1970s and the early 1980s.

Bionote

Professor Jose Wendell P. Capili earned his degrees from University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines-Diliman, University of Tokyo, University of Cambridge and The Australian National University, where he completed his PhD. He published 7 books and over 300 articles in Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. He received Carlos Palanca, Cultural Center of the Philippines and National Book Awards for Literature as well as scholarships, grants and fellowships from Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Singaporean, Hong Kong, Philippine, Australian, British and US governments.



He was a recipient of the UP Diliman Gawad Chancellor, UP Carlos P. Romulo Professorial Chair, UP International Publication Award, UP Centennial Professorial Chair and One UP Professorial Chair for Teaching and Research.

He was a Visiting Scholar, Writer and Professor at the University of Cambridge, University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of Hong Kong, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, University of Malaya, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, Seoul National University, National University of Singapore, University of Sydney, Waseda University, University of Western Australia, and Yonsei University.

He was interviewed by the BBC, CNN, CCTV (China), Channel NewsAsia (Singapore), El Pais (Spain), SBS (Australia), South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) and The Strait Times (Singapore) for his insights on creative writing, higher education, literature, migration and popular culture.

He is Professor of English, Creative Writing and Comparative Literature, UP Diliman and Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs (Internal Communication and Cultural Programs), University of the Philippines System.

The 21st Century Call of Humanities in Asia and the Pacific: Educating the Human Heart

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Abstract

Personal stories will be told, and a subjective and tentative vision sketched of an invigorated role for the “humanities” on university campuses in our troubled 21st century world. Underlying this explicit sharing are the following implicit probes: (1) What *more* are the “humanities” than what we have treated them to be? What *more* is the “humanities scholar” than what we have thought her or him to be? What *more* is the role of the “humanities educator” than what we have said it to be? Have all potentially useful framings and re-framings been exhausted, or do we in Asia and the Pacific have further contributions to make? (2) How much respect for the human body, for human emotions, for the human spirit, for the spiritual, and for nature and our human inter-connectedness with all living systems, permeates our humanities scholarship and teaching? Can we in Asia and the Pacific do even more to affect mainstream understandings of what it could mean to be a mature, whole, fully-functioning human being? (3) To what extent do our humanities programs in Asia and the Pacific region foreground Western topics, methods, content, and issues in our scholarship and teaching? How actively are we encouraging scholars from our Asian and Pacific region, and indigenous scholars from around the world, to further enlarge our conceptions of the humanities? (4) How are we faring in our ethical responsibility to humanity and the planet in pursuing humanities scholarship that not only advances individual careers, but that contributes to peoples’ empathic caring for humanity, the harmonization of humankind, and planetary survival?

Bionote



Ron Gordon is Professor of Communication at UH-Hilo, teaching coursework in interpersonal communication, listening, dialogue, leadership, and communication and love. He has been twice-nominated for the Board of Regents Excellence in Teaching Award. He served for eight years as chair of his department, and for three years as president of the Pacific and Asian Communication Association. His scholarship has appeared in twenty different academic venues, including *Communication Quarterly*, *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*, *China Media Research*, *Small Group Behavior*, *Journal of Business Communication*, and *Human Communication*.