

Jouissance and Sinthome: Writing Sex and Body in Contemporary Taiwan Poetry

Xiaobin Yang 楊小濱

Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

中央研究院中國文哲研究所

This essay will examine how writings of sex and body in contemporary Taiwan poetry amount to different ways of coping with the Lacanian real. The problem also involves how different poets experience different modes of jouissance in their own ways, conveying various culturo-political strategies. In addition to the concept of jouissance, I will also probe the significance of the Lacanian concept of sinthome (or jouis-sense/enjoy-meant) in Taiwan poetry, in order to demonstrate the ways of managing jouissance with inventive poetic language. The poets discussed in this paper include Xia Yu, Tang Juan, Chen Li, Chen Kehua, Jiao Tong, Lin Yaode, Yan Ailin, Jiang Wenyu, etc.