

Remembering Queer Korea:

An International Symposium, Film Festival, and Exhibition

November 13-15, 2014

University of California-San Diego

Address

Structure and Materials Engineering Building
University of California-San Diego
Voigt Drive and Matthews Lane
La Jolla, CA 92093

Sponsors

Academy for Korean Studies
UCSD Division of Arts and Humanities
Association for Asian Studies
Pacific Arts Movement
FilmOut San Diego

“REMEMBERING QUEER KOREA,” THE FIRST EVENT OF ITS KIND, COMBINES SCHOLARSHIP, FILM, AND ART IN AN ATTEMPT TO CRITICALLY REFLECT UPON THE PLACE OF NON-NORMATIVE SEXUALITY AND GENDER VARIANCE IN THE PENINSULA’S HISTORY AND CULTURE. TO BE SURE, THESE TOPICS HAVE BECOME AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PART OF SOUTH KOREAN SOCIETY SINCE THE 1990S, AS EVIDENCED BY THE UPSURGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, REPRESENTATIONS IN FILM AND ON TELEVISION, AND IN PRACTICES OF QUEER CONSUMPTION. HOWEVER, THE ANTECEDENTS OF THESE CONTEMPORARY PHENOMENA TEND TO REMAIN HIDDEN UNDER AN IMPENETRABLE VENEER OF IMAGINED, IF NOT REAL, CONSERVATISM. GIVEN THE TRANSNATIONAL NATURE OF ACADEMIC WORK AND CULTURAL PRODUCTION, THIS OVERSIGHT HAS ALSO EXTENDED TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE PENINSULA’S BORDERS, WHERE INTELLECTUAL AND ARTISTIC WORK CONTINUES TO MARGINALIZE ALLEGEDLY “BACKWARD” SOCIETIES LIKE THE TWO KOREAS.

THE SCREENING OF INDEPENDENT FILMS, THE ARTISTIC EXHIBITION OF ALL-FEMALE STAGE PERFORMANCES, AND THE DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF TEXTUAL AND VISUAL SOURCES SPANNING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY THUS FUNCTION AS IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT THE EXISTENCE AND EVEN CENTRALITY OF QUEER FORMS OF LIFE IN CONSTITUTING, CONTESTING, AND REINFORCING SUCH FORMS OF POWER AS NATIONALISM, HETERO-PATRIARCHY, SOCIALISM, AND CAPITALISM. “REMEMBER QUEER KOREA” IN THESE WAYS ALSO REVEALS HOW THE PENINSULA MIGHT SERVE AS A CRITICAL SITE TO THINK ABOUT IMPERIALISM, MILITARISM, DIASPORA, AND NEO-LIBERALISM – IN SHORT, THE CROSS-BORDER PROCESSES THAT HAVE MADE ISSUES LIKE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE SO VISIBLE.

TODD A. HENRY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UCSD DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ACTING DIRECTOR, PROGRAM IN TRANSNATIONAL KOREAN STUDIES

SYMPOSIUM

Structural and Materials Engineering Building 248 (Cymer Conference Room)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

SESSION I: MODERN/COLONIAL MANIFESTATIONS, 1900-1945 10 AM-12:30 PM

John Treat

Professor Emeritus, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Yale University
“Yi Sang’s Queer Career and the Odd Rhetoric of Empire”

Pei Jean (Eno) Chen

PhD Candidate, Asian Studies, Cornell University
“Problematizing Love: The Intimate Event and Same-Sex Love in Colonial Korea”

Merose Hwang

Assistant Professor, History, Hiram College
“Transgendering Shamans: A 1927 Historical Revisionist Project by Ch’oe Nam-sŏn and Yi Nŭng-hwa”

Jin Kyung Lee Discussant

Associate Professor, Literature, UCSD

SESSION II: CONTEMPORARY FORMATIONS, 1945-95 2:15-4:45 PM

Chungkang Kim

Research Assistant Professor, Research Institute of Comparative History and Culture, Hanyang University
“Nation, Subculture, and Non-Normative Gender Representation: The Film Male Hostess and the Politics of Gender in the 1960s South Korea”

Todd Henry

Assistant Professor, History, UCSD
“Queer Lives as Cautionary Tales: Female Same-Sex Marriage in the Hetero-Patriarchal Imagination of Post-war South Korea”

Dmitry Mironenko

Korea Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Korean Research, Columbia University
“Juche and Sex: Redefining Bodies and Desires in Postwar North Korea”

Han Sang Kim Discussant

AKS Post-Doctoral Fellow/Lecturer
Program in Transnational Korean Studies, UCSD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

3-4:45 PM

John Cho

Fellow, Korea Institute, Harvard University, and Visiting Lecturer, East Asian Studies, Brown University
“The ‘Social Flesh’ of Ssik-seong: Affective Avarice and the Human Rights Discourse in South Korea”

Layoung Shin

PhD Candidate, Anthropology, SUNY-Binghamton
“Avoiding ‘King Butches’ (Tibu): Gender Conformity and Fear of ‘Visibility’ among Young Queer Women (Iban) in South Korea”

Minjeong Kim Discussant

Assistant Professor, Sociology, San Diego State University

SCREENINGS

Structural and Materials Engineering Building Room 147 (Visual Arts Presentation Lab)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

6:45-9:15 PM “The Girl Princes” (2011)

Actresses reminisce on the heyday of all-woman musical theater troupes in Korea in the 1950s.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

6:30-8:15 PM “The Pollen of Flowers” (1972)

Greed infects and hormones swirl when a businessman brings his secretary into the home of his mistress.

8:30-10:15 PM “Sabangji” (1988)

Born with male and female genitalia, Sa Bang-ji falls in love with a young widow.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

10 AM-12 PM “Broken Branches” (1995)

The history of the Republic of Korea told through the story of a patriarchal family and its gay son.

12:15-1 PM “Uncle ‘Bar’ at Barbershop” (2000) and “Auld Lang Syne” (2007)

Two shorts that explore the chance encounters that lead to powerful reconsiderations of what came before.

For more information on these films, see:

<http://festival.sdaff.org/2014/section/remembering-queer-korea/>

EXHIBITION

Visual Arts Gallery (Structural and Materials Engineering Building)

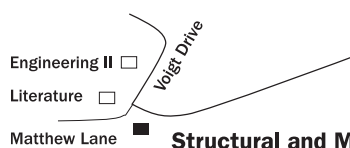
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 (11 AM-5 PM)

Siren Eun Young Jung, “(Off)Stage/Masterclass” (2013)

Approximate Showing Times: 11 AM-12:30 PM, 12:30-2 PM, 2-3:30 PM, 3:30-5 PM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Opening Reception (5-6:30 PM)



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