Lecture Abstract

Since the tidal wave of globalization hit at the close of the Cold War in the early 1990s, Korea has been caught up in the pursuit of new trends. Accelerated information technology and massive-scale global capitalism permeate Korean lives with unparalleled speed and repercussions. Koreans adapt to new cutting edges with as much ease as the people of any highly developed country, in some instances even leading the world where innovation matters. In 1997 when Koo Jamyung, author of such acclaimed short-story collections as *The Rake* (2003) and *Fly, Fairy* (2007) and a leading figure in the Korean minifiction movement made her debut as novelist, the "postmodern" had already hit home among many in the Korean literary circles. In her storytelling, Koo purposefully stays with the realities of the characters that seem either too spiritual or unfit for the world that forever requires speed, readiness, and material savvy. She persistently and convincingly captures with compassion, grace, and a realist precision the earthy humanity in her characters neither the Korean society nor its literary trend properly represents. With introduction of a brief background of Korean literary modernity as reflected in the eyes of writer, Koo shares her narrative philosophy and art with readings of several excerpts from Korean contemporary writings including her own.

Koo Jamyung

Koo Jamyung was born and grew up in Korea. Koo graduated from University of Hawaii, majoring in psychology and worked in a variety of area such as publishing, business, social work and translating English publications to Korean. She published her first original work in 1977 in a major literary magazine of Korea. Koo’s publication includes *The Rake* and *Fly, Fairy* short-story collections, co-authored anthologies, and numerous essays and mini-fictions. Her mini-fiction collection, *Dawn of Phoenix*, is to be published in May 2009. Koo received the Korea Catholic Literature Award in 2004 and the Korea Novel Literature Award in 2006.

Contact Information

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