

碑林 - 唐诗后著

装置艺术 1993-2005年创作于中国

石碑 1-50 每块碑1.1mx1.9mx0.2m 重1.3吨

Forest of Stone Steles Retranslation & Rewriting of Tang Poetry

installation, 1993-2005 china

stone steles 1-50, 1.1mx1.9mx0.2m 1.3 tons each

碑林 - 唐诗后著

装置艺术2005年在中国深圳何香凝美术馆当代艺术中心

Forest of Stone Steles- Retranslation & Rewriting of Tang Poetry

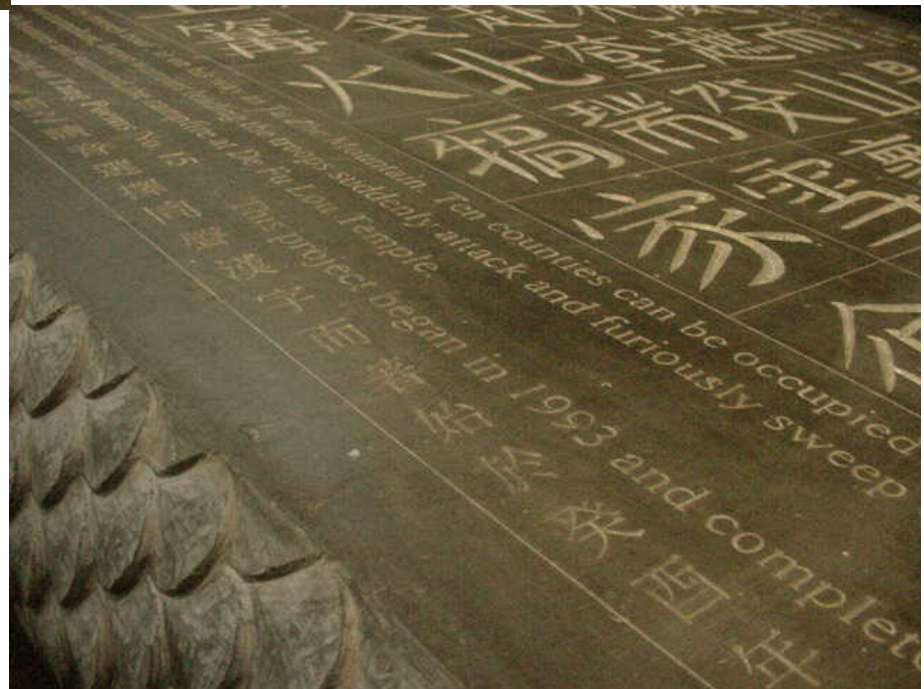
installation at the contemporary art terminal of hexiangning art museum , china 2005







碑刻细部 detail of the stone carving





the text of Forest of Stone Steles – Retranslation & Rewriting of Tang Poetry:

"inaccuracy" or "can't be accurate" is the nature of translation among the cultures. a culture can not be translated if we believe that it has to be precisely translated to the other culture. the text of "forest of stone steles -retranslation & rewriting of tang poetry" project does not only try to convey that, but more importantly, it expresses the kind of "inaccurate" phenomenon that results from an attempt to translate other cultures. based upon my theory, mankind's knowledge is the sum of a continuous stream of misunderstandings of the material world, and human knowledge in general is nothing but an artistic interpretation.

the following is an example of the process of my invention *complex chinese-english translation* :

1, original tang poem in chinese -(translated through literal meaning) -becomes an english version of the tang poem.

2, english version of tang poem -(translated phonetically) – becomes a post tang poem in chinese

the phonetic translation of “forest of stone steles”:

other examples of simple phonetic translation without involving the meaning from chinese to english are:荔枝 (pronounced *li zhi*, meaning the name of a fruit) -lychee; 炒面 (pronounced *chao mian*, meaning fried noodles) -chow mein. from english to chinese there are: Kentucky Fried Chicken “肯德基” sounds like *ken de ji*; MacDonalds “麦当劳” sounds like *mai dang lao*; Disney “迪斯尼” sounds *di si ni*; Microsoft: “微软” sounds like *wei ruan* ... we quite often read commercial advertisements as a phonetic translations from english to chinese (mimicking the sound) but the message is also intended to portray the image of their marketing strategy. examples of this, from english to chinese are: *Coca Cola* -“可口可乐” (*ke ko ke le*: meaning to be tasty and be happy); *Marlboro* -“万宝路” (*wan bao lu*, which means 10 thousand treasure road). however, when focusing on sounds, the speaker's pronunciation also influences the translation into the other languages, altering the original meaning. it does not remain a simple phonetic translation, but a merge of conceptual translation and popular culture. when popularity turns it into an industrial icon of cultural import and export, it is culturalizes the commercial marketplace. this is another concept of the *forest of stone steles*: the link which had formed between the traditional scholarly esthetics, philosophy and pop art.

examples of “complex chinese-english translation”

in forest of stone steles:

the literal translation of a chinese phrase “月光”-“moon light”; the sound translation of moon light -moon = 虻, ligh = 癩, t=忒. “虻癩忒” the chinese pronunciation is *mang lai te*, meaning *horsefly leprosy error*. “晨露” translated to english is *morning dew*, now this english phrase *morning dew* retranslated back to chinese through sound similarity therefore it becomes “mo = 摸, er = 耳, ning = 寧, dew = 肚”. the new chinese phrase becomes “摸耳拧肚,” which means *touching ear quieting stomach*. the chinese phrase “風竹林” translated to english means *bamboo forest in wind*. when *bamboo forest in wind* is phonetically retranslated back into chinese, it becomes “bam = 辦, boo = 不, fo = 法, re = 蚋, s = 死, te = 特, in = 淫, win = 吻, d = 蒂”

“辦不法蚋死特淫吻蒂” which means *making illegal gnat death, especially excessively kiss the base of fruit*.

李白「夜思」

床前明月光，

疑是地上霜。

举头望明月，

低头思故乡。

In the quiet night Tang Dynasty: Li Bai

So bright a gleam on the foot of my bed-

Could there have been a frost already?

Lifting myself to look, I found that it was moonlight.

Sinking back again, I thought suddenly of home.

(以 Witter Bynner 的唐诗英译本 *Jade mountain* 之英语读音的同声汉字译回成中文)

搜捕癩秃， 饿割狸羚， 昂泽府的阿妇卖败德。

哭的贼儿， 还服病蛾， 妇裸肆打惹弟。

乐夫亭霾塞埠， 路客哀坊德， 啞大窪是夢泪涕。

性可淫， 拜客恶感， 爰烧杀， 蹬骊傲妇红。

(retranslated back to english by Gu Wenda)

Tracking down its catch, leprosy, cuts the fox and gazelle hungrily, as a woman sells bad morals in Ang Pond Mansion, her crying baby cunningly eats an ill moth, the woman wantonly beat the child, who asked for it. Veils of haze over the Happy Man Pagoda, a walker sucks the muddy water tears in her dreams, he who comes along this road is sad in Fang De, burning with the desire to slaughter, the loose, haughty red lady rides on her horse to visit a friend.