

Professor Wang Anyi

Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

Citation

Referring to her life and experiences in connection with her works, Prof Wang Anyi modestly writes “I was very fortunate to begin my writing career in the 1980s. The emancipation of the mind opened up every corner of a country that had been closed off, allowing my generation to study and practice in an atmosphere of freedom. Later, I accompanied my mother, Ru Zhijuan, to the University of Iowa's International Writing Program in the US, which further broadened my horizons. It placed me in an international context, allowing me to re-examine China's destiny. I encountered completely different ways of life and modes of thought. In particular, I got to know teachers from Taiwan, China, such as Chen Ying-chen. He introduced me to the existential situation of post-development regions, prompting me to contemplate the future of humanity by comparing and contrasting it with my own experiences in China. All of these experiences helped pave the way for me to become a professional writer.”

During her long career, Prof Wang has published 17 novels. When asked for the names of her finest works, she gave these four: *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, *Reality and Fiction*, *The Age of Enlightenment*, *Scent of Heaven*. The most widely acclaimed is *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow*, which won the 5th Mao Dun Literature Prize, established in the will of Mao Dun, and sponsored by the China Writers Association, the most prestigious national award for full-length novels. This novel was also selected as one of the 100 Best Chinese Novels of the 20th Century by *Asia Weekly* in 1999.

Prof Wang has written 38 novellas, and 128 short stories published in three volumes, including the prize-winning titles *Love in a Hair Salon*, *Love and Passion in Hong Kong*, and *Anecdotes of the Cultural Revolution*. *Love in a Hair Salon* won the 3rd Lu Xun Literary Prize, the most coveted national prize for novellas and short stories.

Prof Wang is also a famous dramatic writer best-known for her cinematic adaptations of Eileen Chang's novels: *The Golden Cangue*; *Aloeswood Incense: The First Brazier*; and *Lust, Caution*. *The First Brazier* was premiered at the 77th Venice International Film Festival in 2020.

In addition to prizes for specific works, Prof Wang has received major international awards, including the Newman Prize for Chinese Literature in 2017, and been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the French government in 2022. Her international impact is affirmed by the

translation of her writing into Bulgarian, Cambodian, Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese.

To spotlight Prof Wang's towering achievements, let me present a summary of award citations given by judges for her four novels. The first is *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* 長恨歌. "With a delicate touch and profound insight, this is the story of a woman and a city, intertwining personal destiny with the changes of the era, showcasing the unique charm and historical vicissitudes of the city of Shanghai, and displaying a deep concern and artistic appeal." "Such a masterful work is very rare in the current world of fiction, and may genuinely be called an epic."

The second is *The Age of Enlightenment* 啟蒙時代. "It tells of the severe tests that young people endured during the soul-destroying times of the Cultural Revolution. Through this chaotic life and history of suffering, Wang Anyi attempts to discern the fundamental spirit of a city and the resilient quality of its people amid the dialogues between thought and reality, the individual and the group. The grandeur and integrity of *The Age of Enlightenment* lie in Wang Anyi's persistence in taking courage from spiritual setbacks, seeking tenderness within rigid political ethics, discovering things that nourish the soul in a heart-stifling era, and powerfully reaffirming the solemn value of the rational spirit in literature."

The third is *Reality and Fiction* 紀實與虛構. "It is a monumental work, a way of creating a world. It is not only literature, but also great writing about literature; it is not only a magnificent and powerful literary and stylistic experiment but also a theoretical exercise and verification: from family to nation, from literary imagination to the history of the imagined community."

The fourth is *A Knife, A Thousand Words* 一把刀，千個字. "Considering her writing career, the quality of her works, and the acclaim from critics and readers, it is no overstatement to say that Wang Anyi is one of the very best writers in the contemporary literary scene... This novel begins at a banquet one night, where several Chinese people are in a private room of a restaurant in the Chinese district of Flushing, New York City... Through precise and accurate sketches, Wang captures the appearances and backgrounds of the host and guests in just a few strokes. The narrative moves from New York to Shanghai and then to Northeast China over several decades of the ups and downs of the protagonists' lives, influenced by social changes, and their own personal

choices... It is deeply moving, and the author's creative passion and courage are clearly discernible as she challenges herself, and sensitively describes the era and the fates of her characters.”

Now, let us turn to a less well-known but equally essential aspect of her achievements, as an experienced and dedicated educator. Prof Wang has engaged for longer and more deeply with international academia than most of her peers. From 2004 to 2024, she held the position of full professor at Fudan University, serving as the Director of the Center for Chinese Literary Creation and Criticism. As a visiting scholar, she has given lectures at many of the world's most renowned universities, including Columbia, Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley, The University of Chicago, and Yale in the US, Leiden University in the Netherlands, the University of Bonn in Germany, and Waseda University in Japan.

Last but not least - in fact, this is most important - I should mention Prof Wang's longstanding ties with Lingnan University. Her lengthy list of visiting positions began with her six-month stay at Lingnan as writer-in-residence 20 years ago in 2005. Now, 20 years later, we have the honour of bringing Prof Wang to Lingnan again, this time for the conferment of an honorary doctoral degree. On this occasion, we all rejoice in welcoming this literary companion to our close-knit community of Lingnanians, and we all look forward to her continued support of the university.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Prof Wang Anyi's outstanding achievements in literature and education, I hereby present her for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Cai Zong-qi

王安憶教授

榮譽人文學博士

贊辭

談及自身創作與生命境況之關聯，王安憶教授謙遜撰文道：「我很幸運的是，寫作生涯開始於上世紀八十年代，思想解放打開了閉關鎖國的各個角落，讓我們這一代在自由的空氣下學習和實踐。接著，隨母親茹志鵡同赴美國愛荷華大學國際寫作計劃，進一步拓寬眼界，將我放置在一個國際背景之下，重新認識中國命運，我見識了完全不同的生活方式、思想方式，尤其是認識了中國台灣的老師們，比如陳映真，他引我進入後發展地區的存在處境，在與我本身的中國經驗同與不同中思考人類的前途……種種這一切，都幫助我鋪墊了做一個職業作家的準備。」

在王教授悠長的創作生涯中，迄今出版了長篇小說17部。若論其最具代表性之作，她親舉四部：《長恨歌》、《紀實與虛構》、《啟蒙時代》及《天香》。其中以《長恨歌》享譽最隆，此作不僅榮獲中國長篇小說最高榮譽第五屆茅盾文學獎，更於1999年獲《亞洲周刊》評選為「二十世紀中文小說一百強」。

此外，王教授亦創作了中篇小說超過38部、短篇小說128篇，其中《髮廊情話》、《香港的情與愛》、《文革軼事》等皆為獲獎名篇。《髮廊情話》曾獲第三屆魯迅文學獎（中國中短篇小說最高獎項）。

王教授亦為著名劇作家，尤以改編張愛玲作品之舞台劇與電影聞名，代表作包括《金鎖記》、《沉香屑·第一爐香》、《色·戒》。其中《第一爐香》於2020年第七十七屆威尼斯國際電影節首映。

除作品獎項外，王教授更獲國際級榮譽，包括2017年紐曼華語文學獎及2022年法國政府頒授榮譽軍團勳章。其作品之國際影響力，亦可從多語種翻譯見證：英、法、德、荷、俄、意、西、塞爾維亞、波蘭、保加利亞、希伯來、日、韓、越、柬、泰等多種譯本。

為彰顯王教授之卓越成就，現在讓我摘錄其四部代表作之部分獲獎評語：

首先是《長恨歌》：「（《長恨歌》）以細膩的筆觸和深刻的洞察描繪了一個女人與一座城市的故事。作品將個人命運與時代變遷緊密交織，展現了上海這座城市的獨特韻味與歷史滄桑，具有深厚的人文關懷與藝術感染力。」（2000年第五屆茅盾文學獎

《長恨歌》授獎詞）「這樣的大手筆，在目前的世界小說界是非常罕見的，它可說是一部史詩。」（2001年首屆「花蹤世界華文文學獎」贊辭）

第二為《啟蒙時代》。「（《啟蒙時代》）講述了『文革』那段滅絕心魂的時光裡青春和身體所受到的嚴峻考驗，通過這段紛亂的生活和苦難的歷史，王安憶試圖在思想和現實、個人和群體的駁難中，辨識出一個城市的基本精神和一種市民生活的柔韌品質……《啟蒙時代》的正大恢宏，王安憶堅持在精神的挫敗中積攢勇氣，在僵硬的政治倫理中尋找柔情，在誅心的年代裡發現潤澤心靈的事物，並有力地重申了理性精神在文學寫作裡的莊嚴價值。」（第六屆「華語文學傳媒盛典」授獎辭）

第三為《紀實與虛構》。「這（《紀實與虛構》）是一部巨製，是創造世界的一種方式。它不僅是文學書寫，也是關於文學的宏達書寫；不僅是一次恢弘磅礴的文學、文體實驗，也是一次理論的操演與驗證：由家到國，由文學的想像到『想像的共同體』之歷史。」（2017年紐曼華語文學獎Newman Prize For Chinese Literature北京大學教授戴錦華提名聲明）

其四為《一把刀，千個字》。「以寫作履歷、作品水準、獎項肯定以及評論界、讀者的認同而論，說王安憶是當代文壇最重要的作家之一，並不過譽……故事從紐約法拉盛華人區一家酒家包間裡的幾位華人夜宴開始，精準到位的人物言行白描，寥寥數筆就勾勒出賓主數人的樣貌和來頭……通過對這個人物人生經歷的倒敘，作品的筆觸從紐約到上海再到中國東北，以幾十年的時光流逝為時間軸，串聯起幾位主人公的人世浮沉。他們因社會變遷而被影響的生活軌跡，以及個人對未來與情感的選擇，引人唏噓……作者的創作激情在作品字裡行間清晰可辨，而文本背後蘊含的作者在寫作上自我挑戰的勇氣，以及對時代、人物命運等難以言說之處的得體表達，令人尊敬。」（2021年《中華讀書報》年度作家王安憶（《一把刀，千個字》）評語）

此外，王教授作為長期投身教育事業的學者，其成就雖較少為公眾所知，卻同樣卓著。她與國際學界的交流深度與廣度，在同時代作家中尤為突出。自2004年至2024年，她出任復旦大學中文系教授暨中國當代文學創作研究中心主任。作為訪問學者，她曾應邀赴多所世界頂尖學府講學，包括哈佛大學、耶魯大學、史丹福大學、哥倫比亞大

學、芝加哥大學、加州大學伯克利分校、德國波恩大學、荷蘭萊頓大學及日本早稻田大學等。

尤須一提者，乃王教授與嶺南大學之深厚淵源。早在2005年，她已應邀擔任嶺南大學駐校作家半載；二十年後的今日，我們榮幸能再度邀得王教授蒞臨嶺大接受榮譽博士學位。嶺南同寅欣喜迎接這位文學同伴加入我們這個大家庭，並期待她持續支持嶺大的發展。

主席先生，為表彰王安憶教授在文學與教育領域的傑出成就，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽人文學博士學位予王教授。

贊辭由蔡宗齊教授撰寫及宣讀