Institute for Korean Studies Lecture Series

Trauma in Pak Wansŏ's "Puch'ŏnim kŭnch'ŏ" (In the Realm of the Buddha)

2020-2021 IKS LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, October 20
4:00-5:30 pm
Online



Bruce Fulton

Young-Bin Min Chair in Korean Literature and Literary Translation
University of British Columbia

In a literary career dating from 1970 Pak Wansŏ established herself as the elder stateswoman of contemporary Korean literature, a household name both within Korea and in Korean communities abroad, and long respected in the mundan (literary world) of her country. The story of her own life is compelling—entry to Seoul National University in 1950 followed shortly by withdrawal necessitated by the outbreak of the Korean War; two decades spent raising five children; and an award-winning career in letters. From the fabric of that life Pak has woven a body of literature that gives voice as no other author has to the trauma of civil war and territorial division as well as the subsequent upheavals in Korean society and culture. If there is one quality that has cemented Pak's appeal to a mass audience, it is her uncanny ability to empathize with people's lives and experiences. Her works draw a visceral, almost cathartic reaction from readers young and old who report hearing an authorial voice so clearly and directly it is almost as if they are in the physical presence of the narrator.

Bruce Fulton is the inaugural holder of the Young-Bin Min Chair in Korean Literature and Literary Translation. He teaches Korean-to-English literary translation and both traditional and modern Korean literature. His literature courses focus on close reading and textual analysis with an eye to distinguishing the variety of voices and narrative techniques that constitute a millennia-old literary tradition.

Please register for this event on our website:
https://easc.osu.edu/events/iks/bfulton

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