

Taiwan Literature Awards

2025

臺灣文學獎

入圍暨得獎作品

Finalists and
Award-Winning Titles

 LITERATURE
FROM TAIWAN

Taiwan Literature Awards

The Taiwan Literature Awards organized by the National Museum of Taiwan Literature is an indicative literary award of Taiwan emphasizing the artistry and creativity of literature. The Awards recognize outstanding works across all literary genres, including fiction, nonfiction, prose, and poetry. The competition is divided into two categories:

1. Taiwan Literature Awards for Books, encompassing the TLA Annual Golden Grand Laurel Award, the TLA Golden Book Awards, and the TLA New Bud Awards.
2. Taiwan Literature Awards for Original Works, which invites submissions in Taiwanese, Hakka, and indigenous languages, and covers works in the genres of novels, prose, and poetry. Furthermore, there is a category dedicated to Dramatic Scripts, promoting the art of scriptwriting.

Widely regarded as one of Taiwan's most influential literary honors, the Taiwan Literature Awards provides a window into the richness of Taiwanese society and culture. Each year, the diverse array of finalists and award-winning works reflects the key topics, ideas, and dialogues that shape contemporary Taiwan.



<https://award.nmtl.gov.tw/>

National Museum of Taiwan Literature

The National Museum of Taiwan Literature (NMTL), established on October 17, 2003, is Taiwan's first national museum dedicated to the literary arts. The NMTL collects, preserves, and interprets Taiwan's diverse literary heritage. Its archives and exhibitions highlight materials from Indigenous Malayo-Polynesian cultures and key historical periods in Taiwan's development, spanning from the Dutch, Ming /Koxinga, Qing and Japanese eras to contemporary times. Collections, research, public programs and initiatives, and public services foster public engagement and appreciation of Taiwan's rich literary traditions.

In recent years, the NMTL has launched three significant initiatives to enhance the international visibility of Taiwan literature and culture: Taiwan Literature in Translation, Writers/Translators-in-Residence, and Cross-National Bilateral Exhibitions. These programs create opportunities for mutual exchange, inviting Taiwanese audiences to explore global literary traditions while sharing Taiwan literature with the world, fostering deeper connections within the international literary and cultural community.



<https://www.nmtl.gov.tw/en/>

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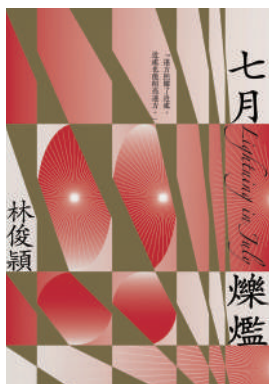
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Fiction**Lightning in July**

七月燦爛



Of people, of life, of the self—subtle and fleeting, one begins to see that in two parallel worlds, the direction is, after all, the same.



Lightening in July centers around the history of Dou Town. Along the axis of a great-uncle's return, it retraces the layered years of colonization, cultivation, and religion. The century-old grandeur of the ancestral mansion bears the imprint of struggle and the sweat of forebears.

If forever gone truly means gone forever, then what are these traces to be called? Must the pursuit of progress and civilization always demand a departure from the homeland? A surname may be assimilated, appearances may be learned, yet the memories coursing through one's blood remain—unleavable, unerasable.

And what of us? As we leave the axis of history and return to the present, the author contemplates death, language, illness, and the development of civilization in the immediacy of the first person perspective. The arrangement of words becomes both clue and timeline.

Lin, Chun-Ying 林俊穎

Lin graduated from the Department of Chinese Literature at NCCU and later earned a master's degree in Mass Communication from Queens College, City University of New York. His novel *Someone's Dream* received a Taipei International Book Exhibition Award and a Golden Tripod Award in 2015, while *Scorching Heat* was honored with a Golden Book Award at the 2018 Taiwan Literature Awards.



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Fiction

A Perfect Day to Put Your Head in the Oven

進烤箱的好日子



Examines how we process, transform, and eternalize our experiences through literature.



Once the idea of immortality takes hold, everyone must go into the oven. Starting with a reference to Sylvia Plath's tragic end, *A Perfect Day to Put Your Head in the Oven* weaves a mesmerizing narrative that blurs the lines between memoir, fiction, and literary meditation. Told through the eyes of a bold Taiwanese woman, Tan, this tale is the story of her life—from childhood exclusion and her parents' unexpected divorce to a transformative encounter at age thirteen. Lee crafts a profound exploration of memory, truth, and preservation. A genre-defying work that questions our attempts to immortalize moments in writing, likening them to preserving specimens in an oven. This work examines how we process, transform, and eternalize our experiences through literature.

Lee Chia-Ying 李佳穎

Lee, born in Taiwan and now based in Boston, is the author of three acclaimed short story collections—*Barkless*, *47 Wanderers*, and *Mince*. Her debut novel, *A Perfect Day to Put Your Head in the Oven*, won multiple literary awards in Taiwan and has been translated into more than fifteen languages, including English.



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Rights Sold: World English (UK, Doubleday), American (Riverhead), Danish, Dutch, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Korean, Polish, Swedish, Catalan, Vietnamese, and Serbian.

Fiction**Anti-Gravity: A Novel**

反重力



Telling the turbulent story of Taiwan's path towards democracy.



When the United States was first sending astronauts to the moon, Taiwan was still under the pale shadow of authoritarian rule. The years 1970 and 1971 were marked by silence and attempts to break through the oppression, with political prisoners rioting in hopes their cries for freedom would be heard, Taiwanese students in the United States plotting to assassinate a political leader, and explosions occurring at an American news office and bank in Taiwan. This was also the era when Taiwan represented Free China. Among the general populace, individuals aspired to defy the gravity of the times.

In this intricately woven work, the 1970s take center stage in the turbulent story of Taiwan's path towards democracy.

Huang Chong-Kai 黃崇凱

Author of *The Formosa Exchange* (English, Spanish and Mongolian rights sold), *The Contents of the Times*, *Yellow Novel*, *The Broken*, *Farther Than Pluto* (French and Japanese rights sold), and *Boot-Leg*. Recipient of numerous awards, including the Golden Tripod Award, Taiwan Literature Awards (Golden Book Award), Taipei International Book Exhibition Grand Prize, Wu Zhuoliu Literary Award, and Openbook Best Book Award in Chinese.



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Fiction

Gunner, Snatcher, Robber, Provoker

槍強搶噲



What of the desperate scene down at the base of this power pyramid?



Nogs struggling in the lowest echelons of society seek a way out. But does the gun in their hand shoot bullets or seal their own fate? Vine, having long abandoned hopes of social decency, stumbles into love again in middle-age. Should she even dare to hope? Belle, a local political fixer, buys elections with piles of cash but can't hold her disintegrating family together. Veteran reporter Chien-ho returns home to find his childhood town on the cusp of a divisive election. Are his writing skills enough to cool his hometown's hotheads and to find reconciliation with his father?

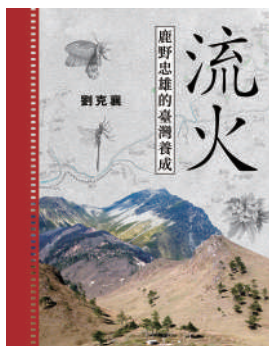
Set amidst a mayoral election, this work plumbs a complex landscape of local politics as well as people's everyday struggles and aspirations, the perspectives and passions of women in politics, the volatility introduced into social relations by "political fixers", and the power and impotence of media figures. The narrative also explores the vulnerability of each character to monetary enticements and the complex interplay of personal fixations.

Lien Ming Wei 連明偉

Born in 1983, Lien is a former Chinese language teacher at Philadelphia High School in the Philippines (Quezon City), employee at the Fairmont Château Hotel in Banff, Canada, and youth table tennis coach in Saint Lucia. He currently is an instructor at National Taipei University of the Arts. His works include: *Tomato Street and Other War Zones*, *The Green Cicada*, *Confession of Blueberry Nights*, and *Stories around Toucheng*.



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Non-Fiction**Alpha Scorpii in Summer: Tadao Kano's Experience Growing Up in Taiwan****流火：鹿野忠雄的臺灣養成**

Offers a nuanced portrait of intellectual formation during a pivotal historical period.



Alpha Scorpii in Summer, written by Taiwanese nature writer Liu Kashiang, traces the intellectual formation of Japanese naturalist Tadao Kano during his years in Taiwan from the 1920s to 1933. Structured along a chronological and geographical framework, the book follows Tadao's fieldwork across Taiwan's mountains and indigenous communities as he transforms from a butterfly-chasing youth into a committed ethnographer and environmental observer.

The narrative interweaves Tadao's life with the lives and legacies of other key Taiwanese and Japanese intellectuals of the time such as Lin Hsien-tang, Chen Cheng-po, and Akashi Tetsuzō, offering a multifaceted view of the era's knowledge landscape. Blending literary prose with archival research, the book is enriched with hand-drawn maps and illustrations of flora and fauna. It stands as a refined work of narrative nonfiction that integrates nature writing, historical memory, and landscape observation, preserving a vital and overlooked chapter in Taiwan's environmental and intellectual history.

Liu Kashiang 劉克襄

A humble walker who favors public transit and long journeys on foot, Liu has mapped over a hundred routes across central Taiwan. A seasoned mountain traveler, he handles complex trails and natural lore more easily than household tasks. A diligent writer with some new composition seemingly always on his mind, the first thing he does after waking up or returning home is to sit at the keyboard. There is always a newly opened document on his screen.



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Non-Fiction

Going Home: Dialogue with My Leftist Grandfather and the White Terror in Taiwan

回家是一趟沒有線性終點的旅程：白色恐怖與我的左派阿公



Navigates mutual understanding and deep appreciation with her grandfather.



This book is a record by Fan Rongying, granddaughter of White Terror victim Tsai Tzai-Hsiu, of her grandfather's "leftist life". It also chronicles her own reflections on and reinterpretations of intergenerational life experiences in the face of family history and intergenerational conflict.

The first section chronicles the life of Tsai Tzai-Hsiu. Born into a family of impoverished tenant farmers, he found his intellectual awakening through participation in leftist reading groups and languished as a political prisoner during the White Terror.

The second section centers on Fan Rongying's "confession", tracing her journey of relentless questioning, writing, and combing through historical archives to uncover her grandfather's story and understand her family.

Born into the "natural independence generation," the author navigates mutual understanding and deep appreciation with her grandfather, a "believer in socialism," while also maintaining a balanced relationship with her mother. Her explorations of these complex yet enduring bonds are the most moving aspect of this book.

Fan Rongying 范容瑛

Born in 1997 in Chiayi, Fan graduated from the Department of Dentistry and obtained a master's degree from the Institute of Gender Studies at KMU. She currently works as a dentist. She has written modern poetry, essays, short stories, and reports, and has won several literary awards.

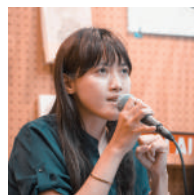
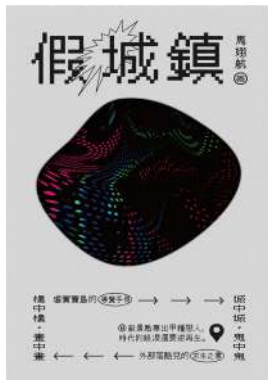


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Non-Fiction**The Potemkin Village**

假城鎮



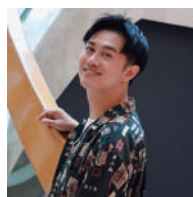
Allowing readers to explore and test the questionable aspects of everyday politics.



His encounters during military service with mockup towns used for training piqued Ma's imagination and inspired him to weave bizarre and enigmatic places and scenarios, e.g., culturally sacred and significant sites, local talismans, collections of statues, urban street islands, the “Eighteen Levels of Hell” at the base of Mt. Bagua, and the emotional spaces in pop music, into his creative efforts. In his works, he turns his military-honed keen eye for observation inward. Through surveys, curation, and framing, Ma molds a myriad of “fauxscape” scenarios that allow readers to explore and test the questionable aspects of everyday politics.

Yi-Hang Ma 馬翊航

Yi-Hang Ma, an indigenous Puyuma from Taitung, holds a PhD from NTU's Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature and is a former Chief Editor of *Youth Literary Monthly*. He is currently an assistant professor in NDHU's Department of Sinophone Literature. Ma's extensive catalogue includes the poetry collection *Soft Things*, commentary essay collection *Danmaku*, essay collections *Mockup Town* and *Mountain Lingo*, and the co-authored works *When the Guns Fell Silent: Stories from Taiwan at War* and *The Century's Gems: Stories from Taiwan (1900-2000)*.



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Non-Fiction

Travelling on the Treetops

旅行在樹梢：七棵樹的故事，與一個生態學家的二十年樹冠層研究筆記



Delivers a deeper understanding of the intricate living systems of trees and explores the true depth of beauty in forests.



Embarking on a journey of life among trees and forests, this story unfolds around the lives of seven tree species. Sky Lan is one of the few scientists who studying forest canopies. Through her encounters with Taiwan cypress, Taiwan spruce, Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir, Noble fir, giant sequoia, and Taiwania, we glimpse into the hidden worlds of trees that have stood for centuries and, for some, millennia.

This twenty-year canopy research journal traces Lan's path from climbing Taiwan cypresses to observing seasonal changes in Taiwan spruces and later expanding her work to other spruces such as Sitka spruce. She investigates the tree health of Douglas-fir, the wood decay of Noble fir forests, and the wildfire and climate change revealed in the charred bark of Giant sequoias. Ultimately, she recognizes the importance of science communication and participates in tree-top photography projects featuring the "Three Sisters" Taiwania and other giant trees.

Lan's canopy journey deepens our understanding of tree ecosystems and reveals that the beauty of forests—often idealized by humans—reflects profound truths beyond human scale.

Sky Lan 藍永翔

Born in 1984, Lan graduated from Oregon State University with a Ph.D degree in Forest Ecosystems and Society. She is currently a Research Associate at the same university. Her specialty includes canopy ecology, foliar microbiomes, and diseases of temperate coniferous forests.



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Rights Sold: Korean

Poetry**Off to Bed, and Forget About Your Fourth Uncle**

早點睡。不要怕妳四叔



Spoken rhythms; sudden sparks; a lifetime compressed into a single breath.



Amang is known for her talent in weaving the spoken voice directly into the fabric of poetry. Rather than relying on classical allusion, she draws strength from everyday language, inviting readers to listen closely for its subtle intricacies. Her colloquial phrasing, lifted from life, is a mirror of the moment it was spoken.

In her newest collection, she deepens this practice, turning our everyday soundscape into verse. The hum of machines, fragments of conversations overheard on the metro, and shifting textures of the aural urban environment all enter her poetic vocabulary. What may appear loose or improvisational is shaped by a keen sensitivity to rhythm and cadence, and always grounded in an internal sense of structure.

Varied line lengths are another hallmark of her work. Line breaks often fall off the expected beat—like jazz syncopation or the quick recoil of a backhand stroke. It is in these offbeats that readers find striking, joltingly crisp phrases which create a melody that feels both spontaneous and carefully composed.

Amang 阿芒

Lover of all things wild and useless, Amang has published several poetry collections, including *on/off*, *No Father*, and winner of a 2021 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, *Raised by Wolves*. She has participated in international residencies, performed globally, and screened her video poem *As We Embrace*. She is a co-founder of TOSA and the IUooUI Sound Experiment Collective.



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Fiction

Boundless Horizons

邊界 那麼寬



A Taiwanese-Japanese woman faces the divide between urban and rural as well as that between older and younger generations.

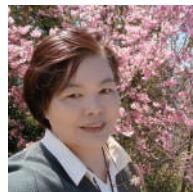
Ryoko, born to an indigenous Amis mother and Japanese father on Taiwan's Pacific Coast, spends her teenage years in Japan. However, increasingly alienated from the ideals and expectations of Japanese society, she dreams of moving to her mother's home village in Taiwan.

Ryoko finally makes the move but finds, although surrounded by childhood friends, she is not yet ready to settle down. She slips away without warning to the city and reboots her life again with a new boyfriend.

Several years later, she again abandons urban bustle to return to her mother's home village. But this time, her growing reputation as an internationally acclaimed artist as well as her vocal activism against construction of a seaside resort hotel complex nearby leave many in the community wondering sanguinely whether she is now finally ready to settle down...and whether the romance with her former hometown boyfriend will ignite once more.

Kuei Chun Miya 桂春·米雅

An indigenous Amis from southeastern Taiwan, Miya engages regularly with topics related to indigenous cultural traditions and serves as an indigenous culture lab researcher. Her works span various genres and include the illustrated work *Lokot: The Fish that Lived in a Tree*, which has already been published in translation in English, German, and Slovakian.

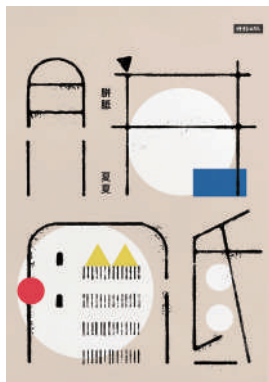


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Fiction

Calloused

胼胝



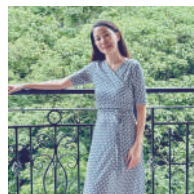
People build a home through imagination, while the home, in turn, is shaped by reality.

The first person to make Qiulian think about marriage and starting a family was A-Yi, and that was twelve years ago. Back then, she was no good at managing her daily life or at finances or house hunting, and understood building a family to be more than just two people in love. Love alone can never sustain a home. Twelve years on, she has a simple, straightforward husband and a daughter, Xiao-Min. For practical reasons, they temporarily live with her in-laws. Her only worry now is - *When will they finally have enough money saved to buy a place of their own?*

In shrewd yet tender words, Xia Xia recounts the unforgettable events of that summer and sets the stage for suspense with the opening of a long-awaited email. Scattered throughout the narrative are fleeting yet piercing observations: the unease of living in a house devoid of familiar things; the quiet dissonance of living a life you once dreamed of; the gains that can be made only by parting; the losses that can be suffered only in possession... All strike chords with those sharing similar, hidden concerns.

Xia Xia 夏夏

The author has published poetry, novels, essays, and children's books, including *Miss Debussy*, *Throwing a Tantrum*, *Boiling the Sea*, *Sugar for Tomorrow*, and *Grandpa at One Year Old*. She also created the children's poetry series *When Children Meet Poetry* and edited *The Sinking Boat* and several themed anthologies.



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Fiction

In Between: The Woman and The Public

在女與公之間



Reflects a yearning for greater acceptance of polyamorous and fluid relations.

Blazing a singular literary path, TLA New Bud Award-winner Hsu En-En's lived experiences with social activism and leaving Kaohsiung for a new life in the north give her writings on political activism, resistance, and engagement a fresh, sharp and thoughtful perspective on this era's most salient issues.

These nine short stories all center around a group of women who participated in social protests in their younger years and now all work in the public sector as broadcasters, part-time staff, or advisors. One even is the organizer of a retreat training program for government staff. The narratives reveal lives caught between principled idealism and everyday reality and explore the difficulties of making concessions.

The stories also explore how women's priorities and thoughts change with age. Beyond relations with men, the narrative plumbs the ambiguities and complex feelings involved in female friendships, dissects the landscape of same-sex desire and affection, and reflects a yearning for greater acceptance of polyamorous and fluid relations.

Hsu En-En 許恩恩

Hsu holds bachelor and master's degrees in Sociology. She previously worked at the Executive Yuan's Taiwan's Public Digital Innovation Space. Her writing has received multiple literary awards and creative writing grants. She is the founder and current Strategy Director at TW Co. Lab Studio.



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Fiction

Ivan's Hesitation: 11 Short Stories by Walice

伊萬的踟躕：卓靈的 11 篇小說



Around the struggles of marginalized characters, the bonds of emotion, and the disparities in making a living woven through a variegated patchwork of life issues.

The author's upbringing in an indigenous tribe shapes and nourishes their writing style. The stories in this work revolve around the lives of marginalized tribal characters, the contradictions and conflicts of life between towns, the bonds of family and love, and the struggles of making a living. Themes of unemployment, divorce, disappearance, and dereliction of duty and the issue of alcoholism color the text. Caught within a capitalist framework, once-revered hunter-warriors are reduced to humble figures struggling merely to survive. The author's delicate portrayal of the psychology and circumstances of women is particularly noteworthy, making their work a vivid tableau of indigenous life.

Walice 卓靈

A member of the Taiwanese indigenous Atayal tribe, Walice (Chinese name: Chen Hung-chih) was born in 1975 and graduated from the Chinese Department at NCKU. He previously worked as a substitute teacher, journalist, and administrative assistant and currently takes on odd jobs to make ends meet. Walice has received several literary awards and frequently publishes his reflections on online platforms.



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Fiction

One Thousand Stars Are All Dancing

一千顆星星在跳舞



Confronting the ultimate question of life, the author embarks on a journey to unearth traces and clues from the past.

As one enters middle age, when professional success and bodily desire no longer stir waves, can life truly become as calm and still as a lake? Beneath the seemingly motionless surface—does genuine peace reside there, or merely a hollow void of futility?

As this journey begins, the gateways of memory open and once-familiar figures gradually reappear: S, who entrusted him with a final wish to visit New Zealand before death; L, an unexpected travel companion in Yunnan, both cloaked in the shadow of death and struggling to grasp the meaning of existence; and the elusive figure of his mother, ever near yet distant in memory. Might she offer an answer?

To confront the ultimate question of life, the author weaves a journey aimed at unearthing traces and clues from the past. In this narrative, he faces death head-on and ultimately gazes upon the truth and depth of life's meaning.

What lies at the root of life's emptiness?

And what of the solitude and sorrows along the way? Who will finally hear them?

Roan Ching-Yueh 阮慶岳

An acclaimed architect as well as a writer, Roan was the curator of the Taiwanese pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2006. He's written many books, including novels, essay collections, and monographs on architecture. His novel *Victory Song* won a 2004 Taipei Literary Award, and *Lin Xiuzi And Her Family* was long-listed for the 2009 Man Asian Literary Prize.



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Fiction

Sǐu-Mǎi

秀梅



Weaving together the bittersweet tastes of a woman's journey and painting vivid scenes of a changing era.

Sǐu-Mǎi tells the life story of a Hakka woman through twenty-one dishes and flavors. From the white rice given by Japanese soldiers to humble tea-rice brewed while picking tea leaves on Yangmei Mountain; from the pickled mustard greens and wild ginger prepared after marriage to the nourishing chicken wine served to new mothers; from the street-side 'gougou' soup she sold for a living to the moment her daughter-in-law takes over the family kitchen. On the family table, Vietnamese spring rolls and Indonesian instant noodles are served alongside traditional Hakka dishes such as preserved pork. Each dish is tied to a pivotal memory in Sǐu-Mǎi's life, weaving together the bittersweet tastes of her journey and painting vivid scenes of a changing era.

Chang Chih-Hsin 張鄧忻

Chang traces the flowing paths of life in her writing. Her works include the essay collection *Away from Home and Back: My United Family*, the children's novel *The Mouse in the Library*, and the novels *Weave*, *Sea city*, and *Mountain Mirrors*.

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Photo Credit : 桑杉學

Non-Fiction

A Reunion Some Day: Godfather of Taiwan Black Movie, Tsai Yang-Ming

天涯總有相會時：台灣黑電影教父蔡揚名



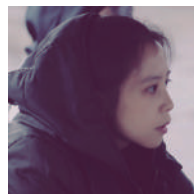
Drawing on firsthand interviews and a rich collection of visual and textual materials, this work documents the life and career of a legendary filmmaker.

Tsai Yang-Ming, the 2021 Golden Horse Lifetime Achievement Award winner, was a leading Taiwanese film actor in the 1950s and 1960s, ultimately starring in over 150 films. After transitioning to directing, he used his sharp intuition and acute vision to develop a style unique within Taiwanese commercial films. He challenged contemporary censorship barriers and carved out a bold path for socially realistic films. His celebrated “Gangster Trilogy” series earned him the title “Godfather of Taiwanese Noir.”

This book, published jointly by the Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute and Yuan-Liou Publishing, draws on extensive first-hand interviews and a rich trove of visual and textual materials. It delves deeply into decades of cinematic history, chronicling Tsai Yang-ming’s legendary life and career while vividly reconstructing the social and cultural landscape of his time. Featuring rare photographs, film posters, and newspaper ads, the book offers both compelling storytelling and valuable archival insight.

Ting-Wu Cho 卓庭伍

Cho holds a PhD in Film Studies from New York University and specializes in visual history, cultural research, film criticism, and filmmaking. She is currently a board member and film curator at the Taiwan Women’s Film Association and a full-time assistant professor in the College of Communication, NCCU.



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Non-Fiction**An Unfinished Journey****未完的旅程：一隻台灣黑熊的人間啟示錄**

A story both of Taiwan's wild landscapes and of humanity's quest to find harmony with nature in spite of inevitable conflicts.

In May 2022, a Formosan black bear died on its way home. The tragic death of “568”, which came after a long-term, widely followed recovery in captivity, shook society and challenged public perceptions about human relationships with wildlife.

Through interviews with wildlife conservation officials, naturalists, caretakers, and three members of the hunter family involved in the shooting, journalist Tsai Hui-ping uncovers a story both complex and rife with contradictions. She finds that, “between the black and white we think we know, there are many shades of gray.”

Between humans and animals, experts and the public, indigenous communities and Han Chinese, officials and civil society lie deep divides and misunderstandings.

So what is the truth? How can we begin to understand it?

Must everything be judged only in terms of right and wrong, black and white?

Tsai Hui-ping 蔡惠萍

Once aspiring to a career in social work, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *United Daily News* Tsai Hui-ping has worked in journalism since graduation. Upon reflection, she realizes her journalism career has brought her closer to social engagement than social work ever could. Once believing a journalist's calling to be the pursuit of facts, she's knows her pursuit to be something far greater - perhaps what we call “values.”



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Non-Fiction

Born to Be Summer

我生來是夏天



This book records the vibrant colors of tropical life.

maniniwei says she has two mothers: one is her mother back home in Malaysia and the other is A-Mei, a cat in Taipei.

maniniwei came to Taiwan during university to study fine arts and settled in Taipei. The differences in climate and culture make her acutely aware of her longing for sunshine, her yearning for her mother – who works tirelessly at household duties without scheming or calculation, and the comfort and strength that comes from caring for cats.

Time and again, when faced with the hardships and gloom of life in a foreign land, maniniwei turns to painting and poetry to gather the warmth necessary to fight off the cold and dejection. This book records the vibrant colors of tropical life: the verdant palm oil forests of her Malaysian hometown, flocks of large and robust black crows, her resilient mother, confident Malay youths who bathe in rivers to dissipate fever, and countless other brilliant manifestations of the tropics. She hopes to bring to readers of this book an abundant, fiery energy.

maniniwei 馬尼尼為

Born in Malaysia, maniniwei graduated from TNU's Department of Fine Arts.

A fine arts student who hates the fine art department, she didn't start writing until ten years after graduation. She has published over ten books, including prose, poetry, picture books, and an illustrated book of Malay pantun. maniniwei currently lives in Taiwan with four cats and one child and works as a freelance author, artist and lecturer.

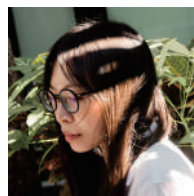


Photo Credit : Wu René

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Non-Fiction

Developing Memories: My Parents, Granduncle, and the Struggle Years

小廖與阿美的沖印歲月，還有攝影家三叔公



This work not only honors personal history but also unveils the rise and fall of an industry rich in collective memory yet seldom explored.

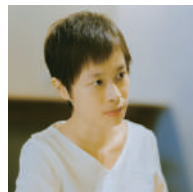
The author traces the life experiences of her father Xiao Liao and mother A-Mei, who supported the family developing color photos—“a lifelong occupation that coincides with the history of the photo processing industry.” She also reaches back to explore the career of her granduncle Li Mingdiao, one of Taiwan’s “Three Musketeers of Photography”, alongside Deng Nan-guang and Chang Tsai.

Whereas discussions of photography traditionally center on renowned photographers and their iconic works, this book follows a narrative thread anchored in the lives of Xiao Liao and A-Mei. Thus, the narrative focus shifts onto the evolution of the photo processing industry and the often-overlooked working-class figures at every step in the production chain who sustained it.

Through interviews, field research, and historical materials, this book sketches a rise-and-fall chronicle of Taiwan’s photo developing industry, rich in collective memories rarely examined in depth. It reflects a distinctive path of family storytelling that facilitates the exploration of personal identity.

Liao Mi 廖暉

Liao Mi grew up in her parents’ photo lab and studied Industrial Product Design and Journalism for seven years. Her works include the poetry collection *Useless Things* and the nonfiction, Taiwan Literature Award-winning work *There’s Something About My Brother*. Observant and reflective, she now supports herself through writing works shaped by everyday experience.



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Non-Fiction

Everything Happens in This Very Moment

一切都在此時此刻



Explores hazardous work environments and the details of workplace disasters from a variety of perspectives.

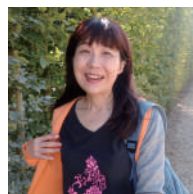
For workers, onsite injuries rewrite permanently the meaning of the sweat they freely sacrifice in performing their jobs.

Although they're allowed to sweat all they want, site bosses won't let them use the bathroom on the clock. Workers hired from Southeast Asia to build high-rises and highways in Taiwan live in crowded cement dorms where emergency exits open in fancy, well-kempt reception rooms. Some shocked by high voltage electric lines lose limbs; some suffer ruptured eardrums or irreversible hearing loss because of construction site noise. Taiwan's immigrant workers will live the rest of their life with the physical scars of working here.

While physical deformities are shocking to see, and stigma and prejudice are divisive, glimmers of hopeful, restorative light remain. Joining together, the powerless can fight the injustice of their situation, raise their voices to resist discriminatory treatment, shake the foundations of class and gender oppression, and end the loneliness felt by victims of an unfair system.

Ku Yu-Ling 顧玉玲

Ku works as an associate professor at TNUA and is Convener of the Support Group for Taipei MRT Project Worker Victims of DCS. Her literary efforts have won multiple honors, including the Golden Tripod, TiBE, and Taipei Literature Annual (Gold) awards. Ku's catalogue includes nonfiction works such as *Our Stories: Moving and Laboring and Returning Home*; novels such as *Margins of Time*.



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Non-Fiction**Father and Son's Boat for the Black Current****黑潮親子舟**

Opened up a broad vision, embraced the vastness of the ocean, and gave Taiwanese literature the eyes of the ocean.

This is the collaborative work of Syaman Rapongan and his family. Although a writer, he also hand-builds boats, fishes, and prepares dried fish every year, carrying on his father's legacy as a “true Tao man”. His son, si Rapongan, is following in his father's footsteps, exploring mountains and forests, rowing wooden boats, experiencing the breath of the rainforest, feeling ocean waves with his very being, and documenting his ocean voyages. His eldest daughter, si Matnaw, enjoys drawing and adding color to her father's books. His youngest daughter, si Nomok, loves to write poetry and turns her daily inspirations into words that become part of the parent-child journey. His wife grows sweet potatoes and taro to provide nutrition for the whole family. His writing has opened up a broad vision, embraced the vastness of the ocean, and brought to Taiwan literature the eyes of the ocean.

Syaman Rapongan 夏曼·藍波安

Writing in a natural style shaped by the Tao language and elders' legends, his many works include *Black Wings*, *Memory of the Ocean Waves*, and *Old Ama Divers*.

**si Rapongan 施藍波安**

After moving back to his village at 30 years old, he began learning his family's Tao culture and heritage in earnest from his father.

si Matnaw 施奇諾娃

Her professional resume includes experience as a planning editor, makeup artist and professional cosmetologist.

si Nomok 施奇諾貝兒

An avid traveler and enjoys cooking, writing poetry and spending time with her cats.

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Non-Fiction

Interview with Father, His Silver Hair and Our Times

訪父記：他的白髮，與我們的時代



Reveals the restless currents buffeting a society that has never ceased to change.

Hei-yuan Chiu, a pioneering Taiwanese sociologist, was born in Sichuan during World War II and moved to Taiwan at the age of three. In the 1960s, he was both a part of the first generation that built the academic foundations of sociology in Taiwan and a key participant in the nation's democratic transition and social reforms.

His daughter, writer Hsiao-wei Chiu, came of age in the 1990s observing his public presence—standing with student leaders of the Wild Lily Student Movement, writing for newspapers, and, later on, advocating for Taiwan Public Television and educational reform. His striking white hair, frequently captured in protest photographs, became a symbol of resilience in times of struggle.

In this work, Hsiao-wei reflects on her father's lifelong commitment to fieldwork and activism, uncovering his untold stories alongside the unfinished narratives of Taiwan's not-so-distant past.

Chiu, Hsiao-wei 瞿筱葳

Born in the 1970s, Chiu has worked extensively in social movements, media, documentary filmmaking, and cultural administration. She is a co-founder of the gov Taiwan civic tech community. Her publications include *Tasting Journey: Her Exile, My Wandering*. Chiu's literary works have earned her numerous honors, including a Platinum Remi Award at WorldFest-Houston, Taipei Literature Award, Openbook Award, and Golden Tripod Award.



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Non-Fiction**Sailing with Flavors: Tracing Foochow Cuisine from Matsu to Taiwan****味道的航線：從馬祖到台灣，福州飲食文化探秘**

Discover how the movement of the Foochow and Matsu people to Taiwan shaped what Taiwanese now call “the taste of Taiwan.”

How has the flavor of Foochow blended into Taiwan’s everyday cuisine? This book opens on street-corner food stalls, where the sound of sizzling griddles echo across the landscapes. Through these sounds and tastes, the author invites readers to listen to the island together. Foochow is the late-Qing to Republican-era English transliteration of Fuzhou, and this book traces how, from that moment onward, the circulation and development of food within the broader Fuzhou-language cultural sphere began to take shape. The narrative then

travels across time and sea to the Matsu Islands and then onward to Foochow itself, exploring the distinctive culinary traditions of each place and revealing how food carries the roles, meanings, and life stories of those shaped in the tides of history.

Flavors lead readers on a culinary journey stretching from the East China Sea into the Pacific, uncovering hidden corners of Taipei and Matsu while tracing the subsequent transformations of Foochow cuisine in Malaysia, Japan, New York, and other far-flung destinations. Hidden in both humble street foods and elaborate banquet dishes are the intertwined stories of people who crossed the ocean, bringing their memories, hopes, and tastes to new shores.

Kai-Yang Huang 黃開洋

Huang grew up in Taipei and is now working in Matsu. He is currently a PhD candidate in Geography at NTU and has published articles in magazines such as *Agri Monthly* and *New Fountain* as well as reviews and essays on platforms including *Ah-Laung* and *Ngui Tuoh Hŭk-Tsiu*. His works include *Island Brew: Matsu Biennial 2021–2022* and he is co-author of *Under Military Administration: Life of People in Matsu, Look for Village: Matsu Nangan Shanlong*.



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Non-Fiction**Spirit Crossing: Crowds and Spirits in Historical Competition & Indigenous Revitalization**

神靈越界：人群、眾魂的歷史競逐與原民復振



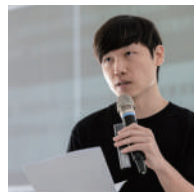
This work shows how relations and ethics related to humans and the land are reconstructed and reimagined through religious practice and the rediscovery of ancestral-spirit sites.

In 2010, Beitou erupted in protest after the government enforced the court order stemming from a land dispute that resulted in Pao-de Temple's (保德宮) eviction. Interestingly, that temple's principal deity, Lord Chi (池府王爺), is uniquely referred to in Beitou as *Fan-a Wangye*. Why the difference in names? The answer lies in the circulation and entanglement of spiritual beliefs among different ethnic groups in the Tamsui-Beitou region and reflects centuries of interactions and frictions between Han Chinese settlers and the area's original indigenous residents.

Today, the villages of the Ketagalan people who once inhabited northern Taiwan no longer exist and can never be fully restored. Yet, through the worship of *Fan-a Wangye*, the reconstruction of sacred mountains and ancestral-spirit sites, and the rearticulation of traditional ancestral beliefs, the epitaph of these and other "Sinicized" indigenous groups is being rewritten. A renewed relationship between people and land, along with thoughts of "returning to the tribe," is emerging through the efforts of modern-day Ketagalan descendants.

Liang Ting-Yu 梁廷毓

An artist and researcher, Liang creates project-based, interdisciplinary works that explore transitional justice, nonhuman perspectives, and Han-indigenous histories. Supported by major cultural grants, his projects have been exhibited in Taiwan, Mongolia, and Thailand. His *Beheaded Stream Art Project* earned a Taipei Art Award, and *The Boundary of Silence* has received top literary honors.



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 +886-963-101897

Non-Fiction**The Basement Tapes**

地下室錄音



Readers are invited to participate in the creative process by reordering the texts into their own remix.

The Basement Tapes is a bold, experimental text comprising forty prose poems printed on transparent celluloid sheets and accompanied by forty images in one box set. This is Chen Poyu's fifth book and the author's first collaboration with artist Kuo Chien-yu.

The "tapes" are produced through a purposively constrained method. Each prose poem unfolds in two paragraphs, each holding a unique, unrepeated sample of sound. At times, Chen completes the poem first, leaving Kuo to translate its resonances in paint; at other times, the order is reversed. Kuo likens this process to a "game of telephone," a passing-on of sound and sense that changes at every turn.

While paired poems and paintings are not set side by side due to the limitations of print, readers can participate in the creative process by reordering the texts into a remix all their own.

Chen Poyu 陳柏煜

Author of five books, including the Yang Mu Poetry Award-winning *The Art of Rivalry*, Chen has collaborated with M+ Museum Hong Kong and artist Kuo Chien-yu. In 2024, Chen was named one of the "Ten Most Anticipated Writers Born After 1990" by Taiwan's *Wenhsun* magazine.

**Kuo Chien-yu 郭鑒予**

Kuo holds a master's in Illustration from the University of Edinburgh and works as an illustrator, designer, and writer. His works, produced in multiple media formats, have earned honors such as the Red Dot and iF Design Awards. He regularly writes the column *Letters from the Bathtub*.



攝影：Renie

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Non-Fiction

The Magical Traditional Chinese Pharmacy: Caring for Your Health All Year Round

神奇漢藥房：規年迴天照顧咱的健康



A glimpse into Taiwan's cultural heritage and the everyday magic of neighborhood pharmacies for young readers.

The Magical Traditional Chinese Pharmacy: Caring for Your Health All Year Round brings to life the warmth, scents, and rhythms of Taiwan's traditional pharmacies through a child's eyes. In this charming picture book, readers follow A-mě, who grows up helping her mother in a neighborhood shop. Behind tall wooden cabinets are drawers of intriguing herbs like lotus seeds, codonopsis, and prepared rehmannia root as well as deer antler and even seahorse. Customers come seeking remedies unique to Taiwan, from zhuan-gu formulas to help children grow taller to winter tonics meant to strengthen the body. Each herb carries healing power as well as stories of trust, care, and community.

Originally written in Taiwanese, this book preserves the original linguistic cadence while opening for young readers worldwide a window into Taiwan's heritage. Playful yet detailed illustrations recreate the bustling pharmacy, from its rows of herbs to parrots perched by the counter. More than a tale about medicine, this is a heartfelt tribute to family love, neighborhood bonds, and the cultural traditions that continue to shape Taiwanese life.

Tân Tshian-iông 陳芊榕

Born and raised in Taichung, Tân began drawing, reading picture books, and reconnecting with her mother tongue only after becoming a mother herself. Writing and illustration are her way of capturing the small yet precious details of everyday life.



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Non-Fiction

Viva il cinema !

從前，有個奇麗馬



More than just an exploration of movie theaters' past and present lives, this leads readers into the present and future of "film entertainment".

How many movie-watching rules have been rewritten as a result of the concert film whirlwind stirred up by pop superstar Taylor Swift? How do re-releases of Studio Ghibli and Hollywood classic films reignite film fans' passions? What charms do the film festival hit *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* possess that keeps it firmly in cult status?

This book is a cultural exploration of "movie theaters". Case examples from around the world, including Ximending Cinema Street, Tokyo Movie Street in Asakusa Park, New York, Los Angeles, London, Kuala Lumpur, and elsewhere, prove movie theaters are much more than simply screening spaces. They contain memories of their era and of contemporary preferences, habits, and emotional experiences. A response to the frequent news of new theater closures in recent years, this book affirms through current phenomena such as classic film re-releases, concert film crazes, and special edition rushes that the film exhibition industry still possesses a vigorous vitality.

Ye, Sheng-Zong 葉郎

Ye is a wordsmith, film obsessive, and severe information anxiety sufferer who looks beyond the images projected on a screen, seeing the people, histories, and industries behind. From soundtracks and gossip to current film culture, his writing also veers into discussions of popcorn consumption, cinema rituals, bootlegs, MTV, video rentals, and DVD mania. His book *VHS Tape* won a 2023 Openbook Award and was shortlisted for Eslite's Best Book Awards.



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Poetry

Brows at the Edge of the Sky

天邊的目眉



This work plunges into the deep sea of their inner worlds, dredging up silent souls hidden beneath their weathered forms.

Brows at the Edge of the Sky is the first poetry collection published in Taiwanese (Taigi) by acclaimed maritime writer Liao Hung-Chi. Through his poetry, Liao considers the life of fishermen, capturing their daily toils and their innermost feelings.

This book is also a precious record of language and culture. Poetry preserves the living “tongue of the shore” and shines with luminous linguistic and ethnographic value.

Honed and resonant, these poems reveal the solitude and tenderness woven through the rugged masculinity of seafaring life, and question the fragile ethics that tie the land and humankind together.

Paired with illustrations by his daughter Olbee, the collection is a cross-generational dialogue which, through their collaboration, helps sustain living memories of the sea.

Liao Hung-Chi 廖鴻基

Liao has worked for over thirty years on the sea, first on fishing and container vessels, and then on long-term whale and dolphin research and pioneering marine projects. He serves as Chairman of Hualien Formosa Association and is an adjunct associate professor and writer-in-residence at NTOU. He has published over thirty works on the sea and marine culture and has received numerous honors, including an Ocean Culture Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award in Social Education.



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Poetry**Come As You Are**

第一事物



Convey meaning as in a record or journal - clearly and directly.

The human emotional experience comes from the accumulation of countless fleeting moments. Yang Chih Chieh found himself captivated not by the powerful mechanical arm of an excavator, capable of moving tons of earth, but by the delicate floral pattern beneath the glass dome on the control lever. To Him, that was his sky—a vaulted dome sheltering an eternal flower. As earth was shifted and rearranged in heavy, chaotic bursts of sound, that flower remained unchanged, moving forward and backward with the machine.

Modern poetry by necessity uses the language of its time to express contemporary emotions. In *Come As You Are*, Yang employs brief and rapid linguistic patterns that strip language back to its basic function—the conveyance of meaning, clearly and directly as in a record or journal entry. From this foundation, he uncovers poetry rooted deeply in everyday life.

Yang Chih Chieh 楊智傑

Poetry collections authored by Yang include *Deep Deep*, *Xiao Ning*, and *Stray Dog Under Blue Sky*, among others. His work was selected as one of the “20 Best Poetry Collections in 20 Years” by Wenhsun in its retrospective on post-1970 Taiwan Literature. In 2021, he was invited to be a writer-in-residence at the Literary Colloquium Berlin. His collection *Come As You Are* received a Yang Mu Literary Awards’ Yang Mu Award for Poetry.



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Poetry

Talatokosay A Kapah

在我身體裡的那座山

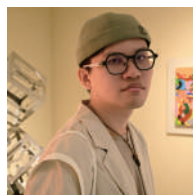


The perfect key to opening a door, with its delicate poems gently conveying readers into the heart of indigenous culture.

This work both branches off from mainstream indigenous literature and builds bridges to mainstream Taiwan Literature. The poems within shine with unique creativity and reflect the author's eager dual pursuit of art and spirituality. Ethnically indigenous people in modern society are challenged by social change and issues of ethnic heritage. Numerous cultural and social dialogue difficulties are often reflected in new and old information. Past mistakes and frustrations must be demystified in the modern era, and their meaning to the ethnic group redefined.

Cidal 嚴毅昇

Cidal, a former Advisor to the Poetry Society of Changhua University of Education, currently serves as Director of the Taiwan Indigenous Youth Public Participation Association. He is a member of Indigenous Youth Front and has been honored with a Taiwan Indigenous Literature Award for New Poetry. He moves fluidly between indigenous and non-indigenous cultural and social settings. Cidal's published collected works include *Drawing the Way Home*, *The Man Who Uses Words*, and *The First Test of Star Rising*.



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GPT is set up by the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan to encourage the publication of Taiwanese works in translation overseas. The maximum grant available for each project is NT\$600,000, and all legally registered or incorporated foreign publishing house (legal entity) are welcome to take this opportunity.



https://grants.moc.gov.tw/Web_ENG/



<https://booksfromtaiwan.moc.gov.tw/grant.php>

Books from Taiwan

Books from Taiwan is an initiative funded by the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan to introduce a select list of Taiwan publishing titles, ranging from fiction, non-fiction, children's books, and comics. It serves as an excellent gateway to explore Taiwan's original titles. The Information about authors and titles, rights contact details, and English sample translations are all available on the website:



<https://booksfromtaiwan.moc.gov.tw/>

Taiwan Literature in Translation Repository

The NMTL's Taiwan Literature in Translation Repository integrates information on Taiwan literature in translation from both Taiwan and abroad, providing a key platform for research and exchange. Its online catalogue features over 1,400 works in 40 languages, with bibliographies, synopses, tables of contents, publisher details, and translator information.



<https://tltc.nmtl.gov.tw/en>

Writers-in-Residence (WiR) Program

The Taiwan Literature Base (TLB), managed by the Taipei Branch of the NMTL, hosts the Writers-in-Residence Program. Selected local and international writers undertake short residencies at the historic Muse Garden to create thematic works. The program also organizes reader events and welcomes all literary genres—from fiction and poetry to drama, essays, translation, and non-fiction.



<https://tp.nmtl.gov.tw/home/en-us/AbouttheProgram>

2025 Taiwan Literature Awards Finalists and Award-Winning Titles 2025 臺灣文學獎入圍暨得獎作品

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Taiwan Literature Awards

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