



Strange Flowers

Australia-China encounters in writing and art

Edited by Ronnie Scott

The relationship between China and Australia is increasingly vital in economic and strategic terms. Through the lens of writing and art, Strange Flowers offers an intimate glimpse of the connections and tensions behind this emerging dynamic.

Strange Flowers tells the personal stories of nine writers and artists working between Australia and China. It takes us into the cities and towns of modern China, into Australian studios and homes, and details the daily acts of transformation needed to bridge languages, generations and cultures.

Alice Pung writes of the generation gap in modern China, and journeys back to her ancestral homeland in Jie Yang, while **Benjamin Law** goes in search of queer culture and the Chinese internet. **Ouyang Yu** speaks of the cycles of influence that oscillate between China and the West, and how strange flowers bloom when creative seeds are planted in foreign soil.

Explore the intensity of pre-Olympics Beijing by bike with Sydney artist **Melody Willis**; take to the streets of the 798 art district with **Michael Yuen**'s Donkey Institute of Contemporary Art; or have a beer with editor **Ivor Indyk** and outspoken novelist Ah Jian in the intimate, awkward space between people who live in different languages.

James Stuart relives the Szechuan earthquake and its aftermath through the lens of literature; **Li Yao** relates the pleasures and challenges of a lifetime translating Australian books into Chinese; and **Zhao Chuan** traces the Australian influence that runs through his writing, underground theatre-making and photography.

Strange Flowers is a new book from the Asialink Writing Program, published by Wakefield Press, edited by *The Lifted Brow*'s dynamic Ronnie Scott, and stunningly designed in full colour by Elwyn Murray.

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