

Call for Papers

Special Issue of *Asiatic*, December 2012

Nature and Culture: The Asian Landscape

How we perceive and interact with the land around us varies from place to place and people to people. While climate and geography defines the landscape, the way we paint our needs on nature's canvas gives it heft and nuance. Labelled as an "imaginative tradition" and upheld as a national heritage, it has provided us with a lasting sense of identity and belonging.¹

According to W.J.T. Mitchell, Chinese landscapes have had a great influence on modern Western landscape discourse, and "the fact is that Chinese landscape played a crucial role in the elaboration of English landscape aesthetics in the eighteenth century, so much so that le jardin anglo-chinois became a common European label for the English garden."²

What kinds of transculturation do we get with Asian landscapes? Has the experience of rapid urbanisation destroyed any concern and reverence for the land? How are Asian landscape traditions and sensibilities bearing up under the impact of "Western" style modernisation? How does a writer respond to landscape and to the conventions of landscape writing?

For this special issue of *Asiatic*, we are seeking articles of 4,000-6,000 words that explore but are not limited to the following themes:

- Landscape and Power
- Asian Culture in the Landscape
- Gardening and Aesthetics
- Landscape and Identity
- Landscape Painting in Asia
- Re-imagined or re-imaged landscapes

The deadline for submission is **1 August 2012**. Please email queries, abstracts and articles to the guest editors of the issue:

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Dr. Paoi Hwang, Durham, UK (paoi.hwang@gmail.com).

¹ R. Nixon. "Environmentalism and postcolonialism," in A. Loomba, S. Kaul, M. Bunzl, A. Burton and J. Esty, eds. *Postcolonial Studies and Beyond* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005): 233–51.

² W.J.T. Mitchell, *Landscape and Power* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994): 9.