

ART & CULTURE

Policies

Liberalisation With Limits

"All art may be propaganda, but not all propaganda is art."

Writer Lu Hsiang, 1931

"Art should not be made to serve politics, and politics should ensure full artistic development."

Sculptor Wang Ke-ping, 1978

In Peking's Beihai Park, a young boy stares wide-eyed at a painting of a voluptuous nude woman. A crowd titters at a monstrous sculpture titled "Censorship"; it depicts a face with half a dozen tendrils hanging about the mouth to represent Mao Tse-tung's six principles of artistic creation. Other people gather, puzzled, around a piece of wood with holes in it called "Eye & Buttocks." Has freedom of artistic expression finally come to China? Important clues were provided recently at the Fourth National Congress of Chinese Writers & Artists, as Correspondent Krystyna Horko reports:

Certainly, openly dissident artists and writers make no pretence at satisfaction. Last month's Beihai Park exhibition was only tolerated, not approved, and it was held after an Oct. 1 protest against police interference in an earlier attempt to stage it. Sculptor Wang Ke-ping, who seems to be to dissident art what Wei Jing-sheng is to dissident philosophy (ASIAWEEK, Nov. 23), declared to a journalist: "Art is like a beautiful woman. If she is beautiful, it is because she is naturally beautiful. It is not necessary to have censorship to explain what is beautiful and what is not." Trouble is, the Fourth Writers & Artists Congress has shown that beauty for beauty's sake is not quite acceptable to the Party yet. □

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A.F.P.

1982

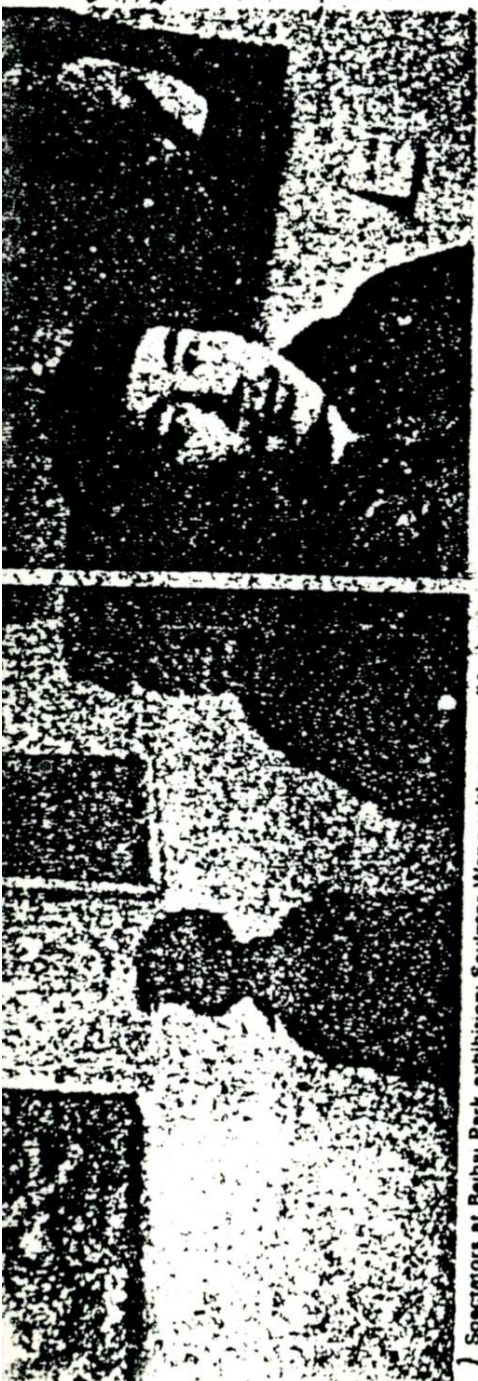
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1982
UN ARTISTE CHINOIS
NON CONFORMISTE
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Pékin (A.F.P.). — Un des plus célèbres artistes chinois non conformistes, le sculpteur Wang Ke-ping, a épousé le 30 décembre à Pékin une Française qui travaille dans la capitale chinoise, Mlle Catherine Dezaly.

M. Wang, trente-trois ans, appartient au groupe d'artistes Xing-Xing (les étoiles). Ce mariage intervient moins de deux mois après l'affaire Li Shuang. Mlle Li Shuang, condamnée à une peine de détention, était membre du même groupe et fiancée à un diplomate français, M. Emmanuel Bellefroid. Elle avait notamment été accusée de « vendre son âme » à l'étranger. En autorisant le mariage du sculpteur et de Mlle Dezaly (trente et un ans), les autorités chinoises ont tenu à montrer, estiment les observateurs, qu'elles font de la condamnation de Mlle Li une affaire à part.

M. Wang a déclaré lundi à l'A.F.P. qu'il avait « toujours gardé confiance », bien qu'il ait attendu plus de six mois avant d'obtenir l'autorisation d'épouser sa fiancée française. Le jeune couple n'a pas l'intention pour l'instant de quitter la Chine.

Spectators at Beihai Park exhibition: Sculptor Wang with oeuvre: "Art is like a beautiful woman"



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