

Cosmetic Surgery in Post-Mao China

An Anthropological Talk by Miss Wen Hua

Thursday, 29 May 2008 at 7 p.m.

Hong Kong Museum of History

Lecture Hall, Ground Floor, 100 Chatham Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

All Are Welcome!

(Space is, however, limited to **139 seats**)

The Lecture is conducted in English

A few decades ago, within Chinese communist ideology, the quest for beauty was regarded as decadent Western bourgeois culture. But more and more Chinese women in recent years have been shopping for a youthful, beautiful and “Caucasian-like” appearance. Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Beijing, China, Wen Hua explores in this talk how the alteration of female body features through cosmetic surgery reflects in microcosm the transition of China’s social nature from communism to consumerism. She argues in this talk that cosmetic surgery must be understood within the broader historical and cultural-social context of China, and also that it must be seen both as the empowerment of Chinese women and also their ongoing subjugation to men, market, and state.

Wen Hua is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Despite years of fieldwork on the topic, she has not undergone cosmetic surgery herself.

FOLLOWING THE TALK, YOU ARE INVITED TO A SELF-PAYING DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

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