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Reshaping Fate: An Exile's Disentanglement from Obsession in Gao Xingjian's Novels / Li, Lily -- Fate as (Re)Visioning of the Self in Soul Mountain / Tam, Kwok-kan -- Trap Revisited: The Man Who Questions Death and the Tragedy of Modern Man / Chan, Shelby -- Index of Works by Gao Xingjian -- Name Index

Sommario/riassunto

Like artists, important writers defy unequivocal interpretations. Gao Xingjian, winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, is a cosmopolitan writer, deeply rooted in the Chinese past while influenced by paragons of Western Modernity. The present volume is less interested in a general discussion on the multitude of aspects in Gao's works and even less in controversies concerning their aesthetic value than in obtaining a response to the crucial issues of freedom and fate from a clearly defined angle. The very nature of the answer to the question of freedom and fate within Gao Xingjian's works can be called a polyphonic one: there are affirmative as well as skeptical voices. But polyphony, as embodied by Gao, is an even more multifaceted phenomenon. Most important for our contention is the fact that Gao Xingjian's aesthetic experience embodies prose, theater, painting, and film. Taken together, they form a Gesamtkunstwerk whose diversity of voices characterizes every single one of them.
