

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
Sponsored By  Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston

A Special Panel Celebrating

HAN KANG'S
Nobel Prize in Literature

*Poetic Confrontations with Trauma
and Visions of Transcendence*

WED, DECEMBER 4
4:30 - 6:00 PM
THE NEWHOUSE CENTER

WELLESLEY



Han Kang



Photograph: Murdo Macleod/The Guardian

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2024

Born: 27 November 1970, Gwangju, South Korea

Residence at the time of the award: Seoul, South Korea

Prize motivation: “for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”

Language: Korean

Work

Han Kang began her career in 1993 as a poet, but has since written mainly novels and short stories. In her oeuvre, she confronts historical traumas and invisible sets of rules and, in each of her works, exposes the fragility of human life. She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose.

Among her works are *The Vegetarian*, *Human Acts* and *We Do Not Part*.

*Han Kang – Facts – 2024. NobelPrize.org. Nobel Prize Outreach AB 2024. Mon. 2 Dec 2024.

<<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2024/han/facts/>>

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Poetic Confrontations with Trauma and Visions of Transcendence

I. Opening, Mingwei Song, Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Wellesley College

II. Welcome Words, Courtney Coile, Provost, Wellesley College

III. Celebratory Remarks, Jae-hui Kim, Consul General, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston

IV. Panel Discussion (Moderator: Sun-Hee Lee)

1. Wiebke Denecke (MIT): *Han Kang as World Literature*

2. Yu Jin Ko (Wellesley): *Resistance and Transcendence in The Vegetarian*

3. Hangeol Park & Joanne Kim (2027 Wellesley)

4. Yoon Sun Yang (Boston University): *Defamiliarizing Kwangju Narratives: Han Kang's Human Acts (Sonyoni onda, 2014)*

5. Q/A

V. Closing

“당신이 죽은 뒤 장례식을 치르지 못해, 내 삶이 장례식이 되었습니다.” (99p. 소년이 온다)

“After you died, I could not hold a funeral, And so my life became a funeral.”(From *Human Acts*)

“Yes. I grew up with books, you know, so since when I was a child, I grew up with books in Korean and translated as well. So I can say I grew up with Korean literature, which I feel very close to. So I hope this news is nice for Korean literature readers and my friends, writers.” (Han Kang – Interview. NobelPrize.org. Nobel Prize Outreach AB 2024. Mon. 2 Dec 2024. <<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2024/han/interview/>>)

Han Kang

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