AN EVENING WITH KIM CHIHA—KOREAN POET
With Commentary and Translation by David R. McCann, Harvard University

Washington Korea Festival
Celebrating the Opening of the Korea Gallery at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Kim Chiha

WHEN
June 8, 2007 (Friday) | 5:30 – 7:00 PM

WHERE
George Washington University
Funger Hall 108
2201 G St. NW | Washington, DC 20052

Reception follows. Free & open to the public

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ORGANIZED BY
The Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities
The Korea Literature Translation Institute
The renowned Korean activist poet Kim Chiha was born in 1941 in the southwestern port city of Mokp'o and studied Aesthetics at Seoul National University. He rose to literary prominence by raising a fierce voice against the authoritarian government of South Korea, for which he suffered lengthy imprisonment. His spirit of resistance is embodied in his pen name Chiha, which means ‘underground.’ However, Kim Chiha has “neither shunned his duties as an intellectual nor neglected his artistic vision for a political cause.” His collections of poetry and reflective writing include In Burning Thirst, Black Mountain and White Room, Heart’s Agony, Staring at a Field of Stars, Wandering and Hiding, and Searching for an Aesthetics of White Shadows. Kim Chiha received Lotus Special Award of the Asian and African Writers’ Council (1975); Great Poet Award from the Poetry International (1981); Bruno Chiriski Human Rights Award (1981); Yi Sang Literature Award (1993); Manhae Literature Award (2002).

Brother Anthony of Taize, aka An Sonjae, notes, “Kim Chiha (1941-) was the protest poet par excellence in the era of military dictatorships. In Five Thieves (1970), which he called a “ballad,” Kim Chi-ha offers a scathing critique of the corrupt political world of his time through an experiment in poetic form. By drawing into the poem elements of traditional Korean oral genres, including the kasa, t’ary˘ ong, and p’ansori narrative, the poet tests out new hybrid possibilities...The target of Kim Chiha’s satire is political authoritarianism and deep-seated corruption in Korean society; the “Five Thieves” are the corporate conglomerates, congressmen, high-level bureaucrats, military generals, and heads of government ministries that form the very top echelon of Korean society, the putrid pool from which oppression and corruption are bred.” (http://hompi.sogang.ac.kr/anthony/2004Poetry.htm)

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**THE PROGRAM**

- **Welcome Remarks**
  Young-Key Kim-Renaud, George Washington University

- **A Documentary on Kim Chiha**

- **Presentation of the Poet**
  David R. McCann, Harvard University

- **Poetry Reading**
  Kim Chiha and David R. McCann
  - 타는 목마름으로 (In Burning Thirst)
  - 74년 1월 (January 1974)
  - 빈산 (Barren Mountain)
  - 불귀 (No Return)
  - 길탁 (Cracking the Shell)
  - 오적 (Five Thieves)

  1. 도입부 (Introductory Part)
  2. 포도대장이 동빙고동에 도착하는 부분 (The Police Chief Arrives at Tongbinggo District)
  3. 꼬수가 잡혀가는 부분 (Kkoesu Is Arrested.)

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**DAVID R. MCCANN**

David R. McCann (1944-) is Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Literature at Harvard University. His publications include Early Korean Literature: Selections and Introductions (2000); War and Democracy: A Comparative Study of the Korean War and the Peloponnesian War (2001); The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry (2004); and translations of poetry by Kim Chiha and many other Korean poets.