

CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, April 25th, 2024, 19:30 – 21:00

Thank You, Mr. Nixon: The 50 Years since China's Opening Told in Stories

Gish Jen

Award-Winning Chinese-American Novelist

Visiting Professor of Literature at NYU Shanghai

Author of [Thank you, Mr. Nixon](#) (2022)

Author of [Typical American](#) (1991)

Author of [The Resisters](#) (2020)



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The acclaimed author of [The Resisters](#) takes measure of the fifty years since the opening of China and its unexpected effects on the lives of ordinary people. It is a unique book that only Jen could write—a story collection accruing the power of a novel as it proceeds—a work that Cynthia Ozick has called “an art beyond art. It is life itself.” Beginning with a cheery letter penned by a Chinese girl in heaven to “poor Mr. Nixon” in hell, Gish Jen embarks on a fictional journey through U.S.-China relations, capturing the excitement of a world on the brink of tectonic change. Opal Chen reunites with her Chinese sisters after forty years; newly cosmopolitan Lulu Koo wonders why Americans “like to walk around in the woods with the mosquitoes”; Hong Kong parents go to extreme lengths to reestablish contact with their “number-one daughter” in New York; and Betty Koo, brought up on “no politics, just make money,” finds she must reassess her mother’s philosophy. With their profound compassion and humor, these eleven linked stories trace the intimate ways in which humans make and are made by history, capturing an extraordinary era in an extraordinary way. Delightful, provocative, and powerful, [Thank you, Mr. Nixon](#) furnishes yet more proof of Gish Jen’s eminent place among American storytellers.

[Gish Jen](#) has published short work in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, and dozens of other periodicals, anthologies and textbooks. Her work has been chosen for *The Best American Short Stories* five times, including *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, edited by John Updike. Nominated for a National Book Critics’ Circle Award, her work was featured in a PBS *American Masters*’ special on the American novel and is widely taught. Jen is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has been awarded a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction, a Guggenheim fellowship, a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study fellowship, and a Mildred and Harold Strauss Living; she has also delivered the William E. Massey, Sr. Lectures in the History of American Civilization at Harvard University. She is currently a Visiting Professor at Harvard. [Thank you, Mr. Nixon](#) is her ninth book.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.