



**Novels:** Beijing Doll (Beijing Wawa), Fun and Games (Changda Bantian de Huanle), The Hard Task of Living (2 Tiao Ming), Red Children (Hong Haizi), Light Year's American Dream (Guangnian zhi Meiguo Meng), Milk Teeth (Ru Ya);

**Collected essays:** The Vain Above (Tai Tou Wangjian Beidouxing), Her Name is Chun Sue (Ta Jiao Chunshu);

**Poetry anthologies:** Ray of Passion (Jiqing Wan Zhang). Also editor of Poetry of the post-'80s Generation (80 hou Shixuan), 3 volumes. Na xie Xie Shi De 80 Hou (Those post-80s who wrote poems);

**Collected writings:** 4 Years of Chun Sue.

# CHUN SUE

Born in the Shandong province in 1983, writer Chun Sue, also known as Zou Nan, is part of the so-called "Past 80s Generation". Variously described as brutalist or edgy, she dropped out of school as she felt too constrained by the Chinese school system. Her rebellion is one of the topics she talks about, especially in her main oeuvre "Beijing Girls (Beijing wawa)". She appeared on principal Chinese periodicals, such as People's Literature (Renmin Wenxue), Furong, Fiction World (Xiaoshuo Jie), Poetry Periodical (Shi Kan) and the English periodical Pathlight, as well as the TIME. Chun Sue now lives between Beijing and Berlin.

Prominent Chinese poet Shen Haobo writes: "(Chun Sue is) not *one of*, but *The* best poet of the young generation. She is worthy of far greater praise than the accolades she has so far enjoyed. She represents a leading figure in Chinese poetry, but this importance has not yet been given its due."



# MAJOR WORKS

**Beijing Doll (*Beijing Wawa*):** Hailed as China's first genuine brutal youth novel, it follows a girl's life between 14 and 18. Despite being written as a straightforward novel, it is actually closer to a coming-of-age work, drawing on the author's own life experiences. The protagonist gets in to a senior high school, becomes disillusioned with it, drops out for a while, has complicated romantic and physical relationships with a series of boyfriends, finally abandons her schooling, and embarks on another path. Beijing Doll is replete with the author's rage against society, her parents, school, and relationships, as she burns with reckless abandon through the years of her youth. A precocious and poignant story of one of a new generation of humanity as it grapples with, negotiates and sometimes despairs about idealism, emotions, society, parents, desire, and the adult world.

**Fun and Games (*Changda Bantian de Huanle*):** A novel of friendship. Banned a mere two months after its publication for being excessively gloomy and unsuitable for a youth audience. Author Chun Sue sends shockwaves through China with her book and her rebellious spirit. Chun Wuli and Li Xiaoqiang meet in the first chapter, and their love-hate relationship continues to the last. Readers follow Chun Wuli on a breath-taking adventure through a real and yet unreal universe, one she faces with the curiosity of Alice in Wonderland and the stubbornness of a Lolita. This is a novel with no real end. A succession of new characters appears as the heroine cycles through scepticism about life, determination, trauma, pain and realization. The heroine is a Chinese Betty Blue: she becomes obsessed with poetry and rock music, stops being able to distinguish dreams and reality, and faces an inevitable tragic end.

**The Vain Above (*Tai Tou Wangjian Beidouxing*):** Published by the Oriental Press, this is a collection of the author's musings and experiences: spontaneous notes and essays, poems and short stories. In a style that ranges from the graceful, the effusive, to the ice-cold and transparent, the author seeks out her inner soul, intellect and philosophy, without skipping over her current life experiences, vision and passions. The Vain Above comprises five sections: "Nostalgic winter night", "Stranger by the sea", "I don't know where that road leads. It is shaped like an A", "My post-'80s and 19-year-old summer" and "All tears, she asks the flowers, which remain silent." The vibrancy and imagination of youth leap from the page.

**Red Children (*Hong Haizi*):** A story all about the past and the future. A story of spring, of the rain season, of growing up. A look back at childhood. Red Children takes after Kenneth Hsien-yung Pai's "The Lonely Age of Seventeen". A prequel to Beijing Doll, it patiently and meticulously recounts the same protagonist Lin Jiafu's primary and junior high school years. Its time span is from 1990 to 1998. This is a chronicle of the childhood and teenage years of the generation born in the early and mid-1980s. The heroine's school life is colourful and diverse, but she begins to encounter the frustrations of growing up. Friendship throughout the novel is intense and extraordinary, love merely anodyne, and parental conflicts as inevitable as anyone's. Readers familiar with Beijing Doll will be keen to find out what profound and irreversible changes made Lin Jiafu into the rebel that she does become. Those unfamiliar with Beijing Doll will find a free-standing novel in its own right, through which they get to know the 13 and 14- year-olds of today. As if in a time machine, they will also have a chance to take a look at themselves back then.



# SELECTED PRESS

2004 (February): Time magazine's Asia edition cover features young female Beijing writer Chun Sue and her novel Beijing Doll. She is labelled as one of the iconic figures of China's post-'80s generation together with writer Han Han, ex- hacker Man Zhou and rocker Li Yang./ (September): Official participant at Oslo Poetry Festival (Poesifestival).

2005: Interviewed by Lu Yu on Phoenix TV's flagship interview programme Rendezvous with Lu Yu (Lu Yu You Yue).

2006: Sole post-'80s interviewee in documentary "Mao, une histoire chinoise" (Arte TV, France).

2007: Stars in independent film Panda Candy./ (summer): Features in Hong Kong Book Fair.

2008: Participant, authors' workshop, Lu Xun Literary Academy.

2009: Spends 4 months travelling and studying in New York, California and Florida.

2010: Publishes novel Light Year's American Dreams./ One of Cosmopolitan (China edition)'s "Women Beyond the Dream", Women of the Year awards 2010.

2011: Performs two poetry shows with rock band Girl Kill Girl in Beijing and Tianjin. 2013: Chongqing University Press publishes The Poetry of Chun Sue.

2014: Anthology Out of Egypt, privately published. 2015 (March): Invited to attend poetry forum at Vienna University with Yi Sha, Zheng Xiaoqiong and translator Martin Winter.



TECH PIONEERS WHO  
WILL CHANGE THE WORLD

# TIME

## BREAKING OUT

China's youth  
finally dare to be  
different

Chun Shu, 20,  
is a high school  
dropout turned  
best-selling author

候鳥  
空間

Migrant  
Bird  
Space

# CHINESE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY POETRY TALK-SERIES BY CHUN SUE

## EVENT INFORMATION

Throughout September, Chun Shu will host a series of five talks on the topic of Chinese Modern and Contemporary Poetry. By doing so, we aim to bring back the beauty of the Chinese Language and to help our audience establish firm confidence in their writing.

From the rise of vernacular in the May 4th movement, to the reform and opening up, and finally to the Internet era in the new century, the history of Chinese contemporary poetry stretches across more than a century. Therefore, most of the reader knowledge is still very limited. Even though there is an emerging audience for Chinese contemporary poetry, for most people it still appears to be like a magical, mysterious mirror.

As enthusiasts and fans of poetry, and as authors of poetry, we have the necessary comprehension of the process of development of Chinese contemporary poetry, as well as an expertise knowledge in famous poets and their works. Through this course, we aim to make the audience understand the history and overall context of Chinese poetry and literature, and to help you overcome the barriers of writing. While the thought of writing poetry might evoke fear in many, we will try to turn that fear into love.

This unique series of talks, with one of the most famous Chinese poets of the time, is available for 220 euros. Please write an email to [mail@migrantbirdspace.com](mailto:mail@migrantbirdspace.com) to secure a place!

### Time:

September 9, 2pm – 2:45pm  
September 11, 2pm – 2:45pm  
September 18, 2pm – 2:45pm

September 25, 2pm – 2:45pm  
October 2, 2pm – 2:45pm

**Place:** Migrant Bird Space Gallery

**Fee:** 220 Euros

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please, bare in mind that all the talks will be hold in Chinese.



# CONTACTS

Koppenplatz 5, 10961 Berlin

Tue-Sat 1-6 pm

+49 (0)30 49952524

**Migrant Bird Space** is a Berlin & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art agency services in China & Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing and Berlin, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with Museums, universities, private institutions and more.



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