



## SVENSKA AKADEMIEN

### **Biobibliographical notes**

**Mo Yan** (a pseudonym for Guan Moye) was born in 1955 and grew up in Gaomi in Shandong province in north-eastern China. His parents were farmers. As a twelve-year-old during the Cultural Revolution he left school to work, first in agriculture, later in a factory. In 1976 he joined the People's Liberation Army and during this time began to study literature and write. His first short story was published in a literary journal in 1981. His breakthrough came a few years later with the novella *Touming de hong luobo* (1986, published in French as *Le radis de cristal* 1993).

In his writing Mo Yan draws on his youthful experiences and on settings in the province of his birth. This is apparent in his novel *Hong gaoliang jiazhu* (1987, in English *Red Sorghum* 1993). The book consists of five stories that unfold and interweave in Gaomi in several turbulent decades in the 20th century, with depictions of bandit culture, the Japanese occupation and the harsh conditions endured by poor farm workers. *Red Sorghum* was successfully filmed in 1987, directed by Zhang Yimou. The novel *Tiantang suantai zhi ge* (1988, in English *The Garlic Ballads* 1995) and his satirical *Jiuguo* (1992, in English *The Republic of Wine* 2000) have been judged subversive because of their sharp criticism of contemporary Chinese society.

*Fengru feitun* (1996, in English *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* 2004) is a broad historical fresco portraying 20th-century China through the microcosm of a single family. The novel *Shengsi pilao* (2006, in English *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out* 2008) uses black humour to describe everyday life and the violent transmogrifications in the young People's Republic, while *Tanxiangxing* (2004, to be published in English as *Sandalwood Death* 2013) is a story of human cruelty in the crumbling Empire. Mo Yan's latest novel *Wa* (2009, in French *Grenouilles* 2011) illuminates the consequences of China's imposition of a single-child policy.

Through a mixture of fantasy and reality, historical and social perspectives, Mo Yan has created a world reminiscent in its complexity of those in the writings of William Faulkner and Gabriel García Márquez, at the same time finding a departure point in old Chinese literature and in oral tradition. In addition to his novels, Mo Yan has published many short stories and essays on various topics, and despite his social criticism is seen in his homeland as one of the foremost contemporary authors.

## A selection of major works in Chinese

*Touming de hong luobo*, 1986

*Hong gaoliang jiazu*, 1987

*Baozha*, 1988

*Tiantang suantai zhi ge*, 1988

*Huanle shisan zhang*, 1989

*Shisan bu*, 1989

*Jiuguo*, 1992

*Shicao jiazu*, 1993

*Dao shen piao*, 1995

*Fengru feitun*, 1996

*Hong shulin*, 1999

*Shifu yuelai yue youmo*, 2000

*Tanxiangxing*, 2001

*Cangbao tu*, 2003

*Sishiyi pao*, 2003

*Shengsi pilao*, 2006

*Wa*, 2009

## Works in English

*Explosions and Other Stories* / edited by Janice Wickeri. – Hong Kong : Research Centre for Translations, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1991

*Red Sorghum : a Novel of China* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Viking, 1993. – Translation of Hong gaoliang jiazu

*The Garlic Ballads : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Viking, 1995. – Translation of Tiantang suantai zhi ge

*The Republic of Wine* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2000. – Translation of Jiuguo

*Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2001. – Translation of Shifu yuelai yue youmo

*Big Breasts and Wide Hips : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2004. – Translation of Fengru feitun

*Life and Death are Wearing Me Out : a Novel* / translated from the Chinese by Howard Goldblatt. – New York : Arcade Pub., 2008. – Translation of Shengsi pilao

*Change* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – London : Seagull, 2010. – Translation of Bian

*Pow* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – London : Seagull, 2013

*Sandalwood Death* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – Norman : Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 2013. – Translation of Tanxiangxing

*Selected Stories by Mo Yan* / translated by Howard Goldblatt. – Hong Kong : The Chinese University Press, 20-?. – (Announced but not yet published)

## Works in French

*Le clan du sorgho : roman* / traduit du chinois par Pascale Guinot et Sylvie Gentil avec la collaboration de Wei Xiaoping. – Arles : Actes sud, 1990. – Traduction de : Hong gaoliang jiazuo

*La mélopée de l'ail paradisiaque : roman* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Éd. Messidor, 1990. – Traduction de : Tiantang suantai zhi ge

*Le chantier : roman* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Scandéditions, 1993 ; Paris : Seuil, 2007. – Traduction de : Zhulu

*Le radis de cristal : récits* / traduit du chinois par Pascale Wei-Guinot et Wei Xiaoping. – Arles : Picquier, 1993. – Traduction de : Touming de hong luobo ; Quishui

*Les treize pas* / traduit du chinois par Sylvie Gentil. – Paris : Seuil, 1995. – Traduction de : Shisan bu

*Le pays de l'alcool* / traduit du chinois par Noël et Liliane Dutrait. – Paris : Seuil, 2000. – Traduction de : Jiuguo

*Beaux seins, belles fesses : les enfants de la famille Shangguan : roman* / traduit du chinois par Noël et Liliane Dutrait. – Paris : Seuil, 2004. – Traduction de : Fengru feitun

*La carte au trésor : récit* / traduit du chinois par Antoine Ferragne. – Arles : Picquier, 2004. – Traduction de : Cangbao tu

*Enfant de fer : nouvelles* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Seuil, 2004

*Explosion* / traduit du chinois par Camille Loivier ; préf. de Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Éd. Caractères, 2004. – Paris : Éd. Caractères, 2004. – Traduction de : Baozha

*Le maître a de plus en plus d'humour : roman* / traduit du chinois par Noël Dutrait. – Paris : Seuil, 2005. – Traduction de : Shifu yuelai yue youmo

*Le supplice du santal : roman* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Seuil, 2006. – Traduction de : Tanxiangxing

*La joie : roman* / traduit du chinois par Marie Laureillard. – Arles : Picquier, 2007. – Traduction de : Huanle shisan zhang

*Quarante et un coups de canon* / traduit du chinois par Noël et Liliane Dutrait. – Paris : Seuil, 2008. – Traduction de : Sishiyi pao

*La dure loi du karma : roman* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Seuil, 2009. – Traduction de : Shengsi pilao

*Grenouilles* / traduit du chinois par Chantal Chen-Andro. – Paris : Seuil, 2011. – Traduction de : Wa

*La Belle à dos d'âne dans l'avenue de Chang'an : récits* / traduit du chinois par Marie Laureillard. – Arles : Picquier, 2011

*Le veau* ; suivi de *Le coureur de fond* / traduit du chinois par Francois Sastourné. – Paris : Seuil, 2012

## Works in Swedish

*Det röda fältet* / översättning: Anna Gustafsson Chen. – Stockholm : Tranan, 1997. – Originaltitel: Hong gaoliang jiazu

*Vitlöksballaderna* / översättning: Anna Gustafsson Chen. – Stockholm : Tranan, 2001. – Originaltitel: Tiantang suantai zhi ge

*Ximen Nao och hans sju liv* / översättning från kinesiska: Anna Gustafsson Chen. – Stockholm : Tranan, 2012. – Originaltitel: Shengsi pilao

## Works in Spanish

*Sorgo rojo* / traducido del inglés por Ana Poljak. – Barcelona : Muchnik, 1992. – Título original: Hong gaoliang jiazu

*Grandes pechos, amplias caderas* / traducción, Mariano Peyrou. – Madrid : Kailas, 2007. – Título original: Fengru feitun

*Las baladas del ajo* / traducción de Carlos Ossés. – Madrid : Kailas, 2008. – Título original: Tiantang suantai zhi ge

*La vida y la muerte me están desgastando* / traducción de Carlos Ossés. – Madrid : Kailas, 2009. – Título original: Shengsi pilao

*La república del vino* / traducción de Cora Tiedra. – Madrid : Kailas, 2010. – Título original: Jiuguo

*Shifu, harías cualquier cosa por divertirme* / traducción de Cora Tiedra. – Madrid : Kailas, 2011. – Título original: Shifu yuelai yue youmo

*Rana* / traducido del chino por Yifan Li ; editado por Cora Tiedra. – Madrid : Kailas, 2011. – Título original: Wa

## Works in German

*Das rote Kornfeld : Roman* / Deutsch von Peter Weber-Schäfer. – Reinbek bei Hamburg : Rowohlt, 1993. – Originaltitel: Hong gaoliang jiazu

*Die Knoblauchrevolte : Roman* / Deutsch von Andreas Donath. – Reinbek bei Hamburg : Rowohlt, 1997. – Originaltitel: Tiantang suantai zhi ge

*Trockener Fluß und andere Geschichten* / Aus dem Chines. von Susanne Hornfeck u.a. – Dortmund : Projekt-Verl., 1997

*Die Schnapsstadt : Roman* / Deutsch von Peter Weber-Schäfer. – Reinbek bei Hamburg : Rowohlt, 2002. – Originaltitel: Jiuguo

*Die Sandelholzstrafe : Roman* / Aus dem Chines. von Karin Betz. – Frankfurt am Main : Insel, 2009. – Originaltitel: Tanxiangxing

*Der Überdruss : Roman* / Aus dem Chines. von Martina Hasse. – Bad Honnef : Horlemann, 2009. – Originaltitel: Shengsi pilao