

Cheung, Chui Yu, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Traumatic (post)memory in Photography: Tiananmen 1989

The paper attempts to explore how the viewers, who are the next generation of witnesses of tragic ending of Tiananmen 1989, recall collective memory of trauma through photographs. In other words, this paper would investigate the relationship between photography and “postmemory” in Marianne Hirsch’s term, with photographs taken by Wong Kan Tai from photo collection “Beijing Story” as key text of this study. Firstly, the emphasis would be put on *studium* of photographs; with content analysis and semiotic analysis, it is to examine how the system of signs work and concretize the collective memory of trauma. Then, the second part attempts to explore how *punctum* pierces viewers and imprint “June 4th event” into their mind, it mainly relies on discussion with interviewees. Finally, comparing responses from Hong Kong interviewees and Beijing interviewees, the relation between social context and effect of photograph would be examined.