

山水

SHANSHUI

Preface

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PREFACE

At a time marked by climate crisis and an ever-widening rift between humanity and nature, the *Shanshui Projects 1st International Symposium: The Poetics of Silence – The Mountain in Art and Literature* invites reflection on the role of mountains in artistic and literary imagination—not merely as aesthetic subjects, but as spaces for ethical and ecological reckoning.

Mountains, with their imposing presence, have long inspired both awe and reverence, serving as thresholds between the earthly and the transcendent, the human and the wild. They challenge our relationship with the environment, questioning anthropocentric perspectives and opening pathways to deeper engagement with the natural world. This volume brings together multidisciplinary contributions that explore the mountain as allegory, as a realm of silence and resistance, a source of spirituality.

Through the voices of scholars and artists from diverse backgrounds, the proceedings of this symposium—organized by Shanshui Projects in collaboration with the College of Fine Arts of Huaqiao University and the Academy for West-Eastern Dialogue of Cultures (Akademie für west-östlichen Dialog der Kulturen)—seek to build bridges between cultures and disciplines. They suggest that art and literature can serve as vital tools in reimagining a more sustainable balance with nature.

Whether as pilgrimage destinations, sanctuaries, or symbols of a threatened wilderness, mountains call us to deeper contemplation—to an aesthetics of silence that may well be the only poetry capable of guiding us forward.

The Editors

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