

## **Text, Context, Voice, Interpretation and Re-Creation: The Poetry of Chen Li**

Rosa Lombardi (Roma Tre University)

I will present some poems by the contemporary Taiwanese poet Chen Li 陳黎 (b. 1954), known not only in Taiwan and China for his experiments in visual sound poetry. These texts allow the reader-listener a multiplicity of interpretations, forcing him to go beyond the purely semantic reading mode and focus on the poem's sonority. I will illustrate the main ways of experimenting with the sounds offered by Chen Li's texts, with particular attention to those that have undergone a multimedia re-mediation or recreation, and which draw attention to the centrality of the voice and its power. Because, as Zumthor (1983) states, "A message is not reduced to its manifest content, but entails a latent one, consisting in the medium that transmits it", and the voice can go beyond the word. This is the case with Chen Li's poetic experiments, whose intention is not only to communicate sense but also to attract the reader-listener to the illocutionary power of the voice in a game indifferent to the production of meaning, to drive him to hear the sounds of a language, rich in homophones, with new ears.