

*In Memory of my beloved Comparative Literature teacher Dr Esther M K Cheung ...*

**The FLANEUR** by Ivy Lai Chun Chun

**F**-ancy the romantic flaneur who 'enjoys feverish delights' by plunging himself interchangeably from multitude to solitude!!!

**L**-oitering everywhere in the crowd, the flaneur resists the spectacle, the domination of power mediated by images, by searching for the 'aesthetic vision of his own'.

**A**-rtistic form of City life is manifested in the aesthetic way the flaneur expresses: the flaneur 'leisurely strolls along the boulevard, with unique fashion and a tiny tortoise' - standing out, not conforming to the high mobility of the crowd.

**N**-ATURE is what the flaneur loves in a skeptical attitude: the flaneur drifts leisurely with 'idleness, watchfulness, and inquisitiveness' on the boulevard.

**E**-ngaging 'seeing': in the city, people are nice and friendly, but are also competitive and secretive in anonymous identities. The flaneur is abandoned in the crowd and 'fashions' himself as a commodity in a spectacular way!

**U**nbelievable IMAGINATION empowers the flaneur to 'depict the city life through poems and prose.'

**'R**-OMANCE' is the essence of the flaneur. The notion of flaneur *captures your heart*.

This word-game poem was written in conjunction with the essay 'Expressions of the City' that will be published in the Fall 2015 Issue of the journal called 'Interdisciplinary Humanities'. This is linked to Dr Esther M K Cheung's 'CITY' course - here is the CITY that best describes Dr Esther M K Cheung's philosophy of life in teaching and research at the university, HKU:

**C**-aring

**I**-ntellectual

**T**-eaching

**Y**-ounger generations to be *moralistic*.

**Acknowledgement:**

I am writing to acknowledge **Dr Esther Mee-kwan Cheung**, an esteemed scholar as well as my beloved teacher of the Comparative Literature Course 'City as the Cultural Text' offered by the University of Hong Kong (HKU), for interestingly bringing the notion of the flaneur into the context of the City, stimulating me to write. Sadly, she passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and all these are in *memory* of her ...