

Teutonic march of culture

Sophie Wang

The Beatles played one of their early gigs in Hamburg — a culturally significant fact that probably won't get much play during Hamburg Culture Week in Shanghai.

If only the Fab Four had been German...

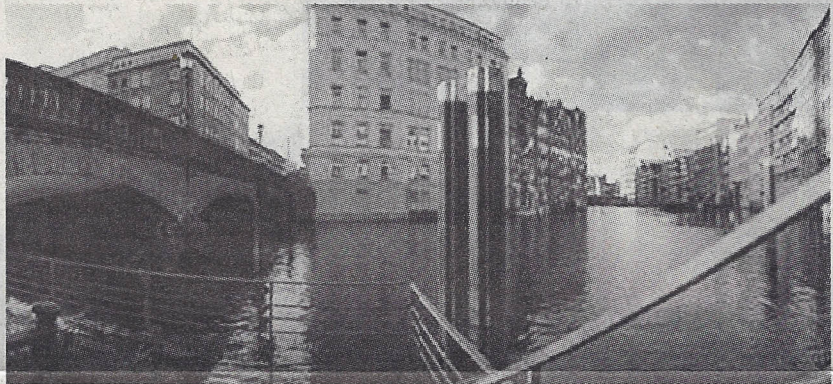
As part of the 3rd Shanghai International Festival of Arts, Hamburg Culture Week will feature three exhibitions, two concerts and a reading. The Beatles will not stage a reunion. The festivities will celebrate Hamburg's 15 year-long sister-city link to Shanghai.

"City to See," a photo exhibit running through November 11 at the Shanghai Library, captures Hamburg's cultural life and the changes it has undergone over a period of four years. Four German photographers will present their unique perspectives of the city.

"Please don't move — Thomas Fusser Portraits," a black-and-white photo exhibition by Hamburg photographer Fusser, will open simultaneously at the same venue. Fusser has photographed personalities from the world of theater, dance, and performing arts, which he captured during the Hamburg International Summer Festival.

A volume, available at the exhibit, includes the photos on display, information about the artists and essays by prominent figures like Belgian choreographer Alain Patet, Israeli theater director Rina Yerushalmi and Hamburg festival director Dieter Haenicke.

"Pears, Beans and Bacon" is the third exhibit in the trilogy, and the



■ This photo by Felix Borkenau from "City to See" exhibit conveys Hamburg's culture life through a unique perspective — Nicolai Canal.

most interesting.

"The name of this show may sound a bit strange, but actually this is the name of a common dish," says Harald Clapham, department head of the Hamburg International Cultural Exchange. "Shanghai residents may know more about Germany's technology, but I am certain that our contemporary art will impress them as well."

In the spirit of cultural exchange, Clapham recommended the book "My Life under Two Skies," by Y.C. Kuan. Born in Guangzhou in 1931, Kuan, who will read from this autobiography in Chinese, has lived in Hamburg for 32 years, teaching at the University of Hamburg's Institute of Chinese Language and Culture.

"Kuan's autobiography records his profound attachment to both China and Hamburg, and we are pleased to introduce him to our Chinese readers," says Clapham. A Hamburg native introducing a book by a China-born scholar to Shanghai: truly, a

cultural exchange.

The contemporary Hamburg art exhibition will be held at the Shanghai Art Museum from tomorrow to November 25, and features the work of 18 lecturers at Hochschule fur bildende Kunst, an academic college of free art. Individual interpretations of life and art are portrayed through sculpture, paintings and industrial design.

"City to See" and "Please don't move — Thomas Fusse Portraits"

Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Address: 1555 Huahai Rd. M.

Tel: 6445-5555

"Pears, Beans and Bacon"

Time: 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday through November 25

Address: 325 Nanjing Rd. W.

Tel: 6327-4030

"My Life under Two Skies"

Time: 6:30 p.m., November 5

Address: German Center, 1233 Siping Rd. Tel: 6501-5100