



A YEAR BY THE TEUFELSSEE
HSUEH-MAN SHEN

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It is fair to say that my Wiko year began and ended by the Teufelssee. I discovered this wonderful small lake in the Grunewald Woods the day after my arrival in Berlin. Ever since then, whenever the weather was nice and the water was warm, I swam in the lake. At some other times, I walked around Teufelssee with my note pads. On July 31, 2009, I took a ceremonial dip in the Teufelssee water to mark the end of my memorable year at Wiko.

For me, Teufelssee symbolizes several things I would associate with the time I spent at Wiko. It is the place where I was, for the first time in my life, exposed to the FKK culture, and learned about the joy of the experience of nature. The tranquility of the lake and the surrounding area offered an impeccable environment for thoughts to crystallize and to transform into sentences. Wiko is precisely such a place that offers not only an arena for scholars to meet and to exchange ideas, but also a lifestyle that refreshes our mind.

Many other elements contributed to my Wiko experience, too. First of all, the helpfulness and efficiency of all the staff made my life literally carefree. Gesine Bottomley and her team at the library worked so diligently to satisfy all my requests and left me with no excuse for not working hard. The Fellow Services organized various cultural activities

that added color to our fellowship year. Eva von Kügelgen's unfailing patience made going to the German class an enjoyable experience. Vera Schulze-Seeger always responded to my curious and strange questions with a graceful smile and calmness. Colleagues at the Berlin museums were genuinely open-minded and interested in collaborative research – preliminary results of our discussions will hopefully lead to a joint venture between Berlin and New York.

I consider myself very fortunate to be among a group of most intelligent and generous scholars. I have benefited so much from conversations with Horst Bredekamp, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Holk Cruse, Sutirth Dey, Dieter Grimm, Toshio Hosokawa, John Kennedy, Felice Lifshitz, Thomas Metzinger, Reinhart Meyer-Kalkus, Srinivas Narayanan, Rafael Núñez, Ibrahima Thioub, Robert Trivers, and Bernhard Waldenfels – just to name a few. Beate Cruse, Noriko Hosokawa, Jamie Jensen, Jeanne Kennedy, Anja Krug-Metzinger, Michael Lewicki, James Mallet, and Emma Wang are wonderful neighbors and classmates whose friendship kept my spirit up.

I shall always remember this very special year at Wiko, and whenever I think about it, my minds echoes with the sound of Peter Fox's "Haus am See".