



# NAGN ART NEWS

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# News of Artists & Exhibitions elsewhere

BY: GOLDA HA-HEIROS

UNAM STUDENT DOING HER INTERNSHIP AT THE NAGN

Few weeks ago I visited well known visual and conceptual artist, Imke Rust's exhibition 'Made in China'. Our whole image of China is tainted and when we hear 'Made in China', what would one expect? China is well known for its lack of established consumer brands and low quality products. I was fortunate to get an opportunity to interview Rust, and get a in depth understanding of where she'd been and where she's heading.

Ms Rust exhibition was held, 27th July till 16th August 2010 at the Bank Windhoek Omba Gallery. The exhibition displayed artworks done in Chinese ink on rice paper; rice paper usually refers to paper made from parts of the rice plant. These papers have been used for centuries in Japan and China for writing and for artworks. Ms Rust worked on rice paper because she really wanted to open herself up to the experience fully, and thought symbolically this was also an important choice, expressing her experience of being a stranger in a foreign country and not knowing the language. It was like symbolically trying to express herself in a new and different language.

Rust was fortunate to be a part of the Huang Hua Art Project, where she got the opportunity to work alongside artist Torsten Jurell for 3 weeks in Beijing China. Torsten Jurell is a very famous artist in Sweden, Rust was very much inspired by him and said the following about him, "He has many, many years of experience and knowledge of working as a full-time professional artist in the international art scene. From him, I learned a lot about working as an artist, the commitment needed, the methods of approaching your art, working with different materials, finding solutions, but also very practical tips on how to make a living as an artist, what to watch out for, staging exhibitions etc. This was an invaluable learning experience. On another level it was also great to share my ideas and thoughts and working side by side – it gave me much more confidence and inspiration. I am still extremely grateful that I had this opportunity".

Being in a different country Rust, was exposed to an different culture, way of life and language. I personally feel that even though Rust could not comprehend the language, her art spoke for her. 'Art and colour are a universal language understood by all' Rust on the other hand quickly realized that she had to rely on her instincts and intuition, sign-language, lots of smiling and on lowering her expectations, and just go with the flow and then things work out perfectly. When she realized for example that she cannot express what she would like to eat, she started just being grateful for getting any food at all.

As I walked through the exhibition, I was startled by the painting 'Chinese Love Doodles (2010)' the painting caught my eye, because of the colour scheme it really screamed at me. In her art piece I see that she was somewhat inspired by her surroundings, the art work consists of floating vibrant pieces of pink almost like a segregated flower but yet appearing as one.



*Chinese Love Doodles (2010) which is predominantly pink. Pink is the colour of universal love.*