

Local Wins National Art Competition!



Staff Reporter

On Thursday, 22 November, local Laura Callard won first prize in the national “Doppelkopf” - Express Yourself! Competition.

The Goethe Zentrum Windhoek, in conjunction with the German Embassy, UNAM and others, hosted the competition. Its aim was to encourage all people speaking and learning German as a mother tongue or foreign language to develop an artistic project that deals with their relationship to the German language and with the role German plays in their lives.

The final was hosted on Thursday night at the premises of the Goethe Zentrum in Windhoek. Invited in total were nineteen participants, including renowned artist Imke Rust.

Although some artists could not make it to the finals, the evening ran smooth and without problems. "It was a really pleasant experience," Laura states.

Prizes were given to first, second and third place in four categories, namely Visual Arts Single and Group Contributions, and Performing Arts

Single and Group Contributions. Furthermore, every participant got a participation certificate, a book of their choice and a bag full of chocolate.

Some of the highlights were, says Laura, a “Grill-Installation” and a poem read by a visually impaired lady. “To stand in front of people that you can’t see, and read a poem in a language you don’t know so well, that takes a lot of guts, if you ask me,” she declares.

Laura herself participated in the Visual Arts Single Contribution Category. Her ink drawing was a self-portrait where the facial features were written out in ink, symbolising, as she puts it, “that although I am I and always will be, only my mother tongue German brings me to life for other people to see”. English is just a bonus, she adds.

“When it got to the prize giving – the judges took ages to come to a conclusion - I was incredibly nervous. I did everything I could to convince myself that I wouldn’t win, so the disappointment wouldn’t be too bad,” Laura says. “But when they called my name for first prize I almost couldn’t get up. It was an absolutely wonderful experience, it is amazing for an artist to have their work recognised like that.”

Imke Rust and her digital art piece "I" won second prize in Visual Arts Single Contributions, while the "Grill-Installation" scored first prize for Single Contributions in Performing Arts.

In conclusion, Laura would love to thank her parents for always encouraging her art, and her boyfriend Mathieu Connor for driving up to Windhoek and enduring her nervousness.



Woermannhaus Gallery Ban Local Artist’s Work



Sub Rosa
The 99 black roses are a symbol of concern and sorrow about the corruption and withholding of important information within our mining and other industries and government. It also speaks about the universal issue of transparency and access to information.

Tanya Calitz

A local artist from Swakopmund was shocked to receive an email from the Woermannhaus Gallery and Arts Association earlier this year, saying that they will not display her latest art series in their gallery due to the economical and political connotation to it.

Artist Imke Rust’s latest art project titled; ‘and I sensed an infinite scream passing through the Namib’ provoked some unsettled feelings with the Arts Association and Woermannhaus Gallery who refused to exhibit her art in their galley, due to the controversial message it sends.

In this environmental art exhibition, Rust, who grew up in Swakopmund and is still closely connected to it, addresses the current debates and happenings concerning the plans for increased mining and industrial activities in the coastal area. In her work she uses a variety of media and approaches to highlight the concerns of the general public and to search for alternative solutions in the environmental conflict. While she is painting a gloomy picture of possible disastrous long-term effects of the current developments, she also reminds people of their responsibility to look after their land and that they have the power to make changes towards a better future.

After booking space in Woermannhaus to exhibit her latest art project, Rust received the following email, by Woermannhaus Gallery's Ms. Göthje and the Arts Association’s Chairman Dr. Gustav Obermair, explaining why the Arts Association Committee rejected her exhibition. “To the 'Contents': Through an irrelevant and scientifically dubious campaign against the economically important uranium mining in Namibia, which was unfortunately one-sidedly

supported by the German taxpayer-funded Goethe Center, the debate is politically loaded. The Arts Association as a cultural association would like to be fair to all population groups, and feels obliged to remain neutral in these economic / political debates,” the e-mail extract read.

Rust, creator of the artwork, said that this made her realise that the Galley did not consider any of the things that a real professional gallery would consider when deciding on an exhibition, such as the quality of the work, the relevance of the subject matter, the artistic merit, the artist’s ‘track record’ and also the need of the public to be exposed to contemporary art by one of Namibia’s leading artists. “They say they want to be fair to everybody, but actually they just care about the uranium industry or maybe some sponsorship they are getting from them.”

But despite the Arts Association's and Gallery's decision, Rust said that she has no hard feelings or anger towards them, but that this incident simply inspired her more to get her message out there through displaying her artwork. “In a strange and funny way it confirmed that art can and does have great power – if an art association or certain individuals representing them, feel that it is necessary for them to try and “protect the uranium industry from my humble opinion and artworks” it seems that they believe that I might make a real impact," Rust said.

She added that the only real concern she has for Namibian artists and the general public is that a membership based arts association, (which means they take money from private individuals who want to support the arts to run their gallery) suddenly feels that they should censor an artist’s work and decide which art, themes or messages are ‘suitable and acceptable’.

The Namib Independent contacted the Woermannhaus Gallery and spoke to Ms Göthje, who said at this stage they would like to refrain from any comment and might release a statement on the matter in the near future.

In a closing statement Rust said that she would like to clarify that she is not against the uranium industries as such, but simply wanted to address current debates, concerns and questions that have arisen in the community in the last year due to all the new mining developments and project in the Namib Desert.



Salt Circles
Circles are ancient symbols for protection and harmony, while salt is also attributed with protective, conserving and cleansing power and a symbol of hospitality. The work acts as symbolic protection, restoring the natural harmony.

Lagoon chalets

Vacancy: Receptionist

Applicant must comply with the following criteria:

- Own transport
- Working shifts / weekend shifts
- Bilingual – English / Afrikaans
- Previous experience will be an advantage
- Good people skills, friendliness, honesty and sober habits
- Knowledge of pastel
- Solid traceable references

Please send CV's to cgruhn@iway.na or deliver CV at Lagoon Chalets offices.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Mother,

Yeta Sylvester (Aunty Hietie)
*30.12.1945 • +23.11.2012

Funeral service will be held on
1st December 2012 in Luderitz at B9
Nautilus, at 08h00 and at the
St Peter's Anglican Church
at 09h00.

Please contact the following for more information:

Phyllicia: 081 143 2556
Carmelita: 081 243 0100
Elrene: 081 228 7640
Peter-John: 081 263 1199

Three Namibian Oil Fields Show Promise

HRT Participacoes has signed a farm-out agreement with Galp Energia for three Namibian oil fields after its latest study showed that the amount of oil the fields hold is much more than had originally been expected.

HRT said that a report by industry consultants group DeGolyer and MacNaughton pegged average prospective resources in the company's offshore acreage in Namibia at 7.4 BBOe (Billion Barrel of Oil equivalent), up nearly 7% from estimates in 2011. Average prospective resources are a preliminary measure used by the industry to indicate oil volumes that could be recovered from undiscovered deposits.

The agreement, signed on Tuesday, covers the PEL 23 field in the Walvis basin and the PEL 24 and 28 fields in the Orange basin. Under the terms of the agreement, Galp Energia will cover part of HRT's costs for operating the initial wells, up to a certain limit, HRT said in a regulatory filing.