

"I wish China could be a land where people with conscience would not live alone and dead in silence."



Project: "I wish" (reference to concept)

Location: Harbin, China
Curator: Danyang Zhao

Program:

7th Dec 2011

art and design apartment in Deqiang College



Lecture :<minimalism and contemporary design>,<art in open space>,<skulls in western culture and contemporary art>
Workshop: <Skulls photocopies sketching>
Event: "Night of remembrance"

8th Dec 2011

Industry design office in Huarui College

Lecture: <minimalism and contemporary design>,<art in open space>
Workshop: <symbols design to show personal understanding of death>



artist:
Alexandra Holownia

Exhibition: <I wish, 001>

7th-16th Dec 2011
public creating space in Deqiang College



Artists:

Michael Brüll
Janine Gerber
Jan Karpíšek
Micha Krebs
Alexandra Holownia

Issues:

According to the "I wish" project concept, each art piece by western artist is a response to a wish from local Chinese about "what kind of a country China should be".

Wish 01

"I wish China could be a land where people with conscience would not live alone and dead in silence. "





Art event: "Night of remembrance" ceremony

It is an interactive art project by Polish female artist Alexandra Holownia. She taught in high school and restored a traditional polish ceremony to its original state in 2005. Here in China, we held the ceremony again, giving people a chance to slow down their hectic live and having quiet a moment to reflect the death they experienced.

Only when you see the death, you begin to realize how imperfect life could be. People wrote down the names of death and told their stories. Is there any meaning in our lives? We are going to find out from this moment, a moment we think, we face the truth, we meditate on every compromise or sacrifice in our lives.

Wish 02

"I wish China would become a country where women outnumber men."



Artist: Michaele Brüll

Due to the "one child" policy and the traditional notion that only boy can continue family blood, young men have much outnumbered young women in current China. Plenty of lonely boy feel frustrated of having a wife. But German female artist Michaele Brüll discovered her own idea in this wish, full of sex appeal and new feminism. Her work has confirmed the necessity of the balance and harmony between male and female. At the same time, she points that a female dominant society could have a more peaceful and tolerant prospect.

Wish 03

"I wish China would be somewhere else."



Artist: Janine Gerber

This wish is kind of a joy, but also revealing the deep sorrow and disappointment. When you want something completely to turn into something else, that means here is nothing you would agree to. Is it right?

But the artist, Janine Gerber gives us a new and positive point of view to this wish. Could China be Southern America?

Her paper installation is quiet and clean, always changing subtly with the moving sunlight. Making a crack with a part of Chinese map on it, she left the rest part to people to imagine by themselves. She said, that the only way to make things better is never to give up imagining and wishing.

Wish 04

"I wish hypocritical Chinese officials would learn to speak the truth and treat citizens properly."



Artist : Jan Karpíšek

Coming from Czech Republic, a country has similar history with China, Jan Karpíšek has sharper view when he met our "wish list". In his opinion, it is happening all over the world that the government feeding his people by consumerism to stop them thinking, whatever in China or in Europe. The media and information control builds a wall between public and the truth, so that, when we are locked and living with chains, we should know that at least. He authorized, when this series are sought in auction, all the payment should donate to Chinese charity, which can support Chinese human right.

Wish 05

"I wish China would become a country where even if I marry for love and work for my talent, I would not have to bear the stress of this mortal reality."



Artist: Micha Krebs

In a commodity society without basic welfare, love is pressured by all kind of needs. Micha Krebs shows his deep belief that live should base on freedom, love, and fantasy.

Epilogue:

The wishes express how hurt we are living here. But the western artists have responded them by freer mind and more optimistic attitude. Where does the difference and contrast come from? Thinking over this could be a beginning of inner conversation. The real communication is not to know what it is, but how it feels; not to know what they have, but why they have. Perhaps we should keep faith to a free future, because everything good comes from hurt when we can still wish.

