



Gesellschaft für Deutsch-Chinesischen
kulturellen Austausch e.V. (GeKA e.V.)



PRESS RELEASE (09 March 2021)

The second Chinese woman has moved into the *Künstlerhaus* on Schwanenwerder

For three years, two non-profit institutions support Chinese women artists in their joint project as artist-in-residence "China's Women Artists Reside in Berlin-Schwanenwerder":
The Gesellschaft für Deutsch-Chinesischen kulturellen Austausch e.V. (GeKA, Berlin) and the Cordts Art Foundation (Hamburg). The starting signal was given in November 2020, and in February 2021 the second Chinese artist moved into the house on Berlin's Schwanenwerder Island to pursue her art undisturbed.

International concept artist

Jiny Lan, an internationally renowned Chinese concept artist, addresses urban life in the world's big cities in her large-scale works. Trained at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Zhejiang, China, the painter has lived in Germany since 1995 and combines artistic traditions of Asia and Europe to create her own visual language. In paintings of aesthetic conciseness, she questions the moral and traditional images of women in China in comprehensive series.

On Schwanenwerder, Jiny Lan is particularly happy about the proximity to the water. "I owe a lot to the water. The artists' house on Schwanenwerder inspired me immediately." Today she lives in the Ruhr region and works as a freelance artist in Düsseldorf.

Scholarships despite lockdown

Behind the two institutions, the joint project is primarily the work of two dedicated women who are united by their passion for art and social commitment. Franziska Cordts and Prof. Yu Zhang (张曦) want to make a difference against the mainstream in the Corona pandemic and contribute more to art and culture especially during the pandemic crisis. Therefore, both of them have invited three Chinese female artists from three different genres right at the start of the project in 2020 and 2021. Due to travel restrictions, these are already in Europe and can therefore travel to Berlin. The author Chun Shu has now been followed by the feminist painter Jiny Lan, who will work in the house until the end of April.

At the end of the residency, a joint exhibition of the first Chinese scholarship holders is planned for June 2021.

Who is behind the project

Franziska Cordts, born Seifert, is a native of Buxtehude, founder of the Cordts Art Foundation and sculptor. For the past 15 years, she has worked in Asia for three months in the winter and distinctly appreciates the connection to people and materials in Asia in art: "A connection between Chinese and German culture feels easy when meeting people. Despite the rigorous differences of both societies and cultures, there is an immediate emotional connection for me. Everything artistic remains open and surprising." This is how she explains the cooperation with Prof. Yu Zhang the association she founded, Gesellschaft für Deutsch-Chinesischen kulturellen Austausch (GeKA e.V.).

Yu Zhang, a Chinese-born entrepreneur and benefactor, has lived in Berlin for 28 years. "While China is my motherland, Germany is now my fatherland. Therefore, social cultural exchange between the two countries is an opportunity close to my heart." Since 2008, Zhang has been promoting art and cultural exchange between Germany and China. For example, she initiated various exhibition projects in German museums, as well as in China, including the Central Academy of Art in Beijing. She firmly believes that culture is the most important pillar in bilateral exchange, alongside business and politics. "The impact of culture and art is more important than ever, especially because things are tense politically."

Contact:

Residency program info and applications:

www.women-artists-in-residence.berlin

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Further information and picture material can be requested.

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