

# Namibian Art ‘Made in China’

By Staff Reporter

**WINDHOEK** – The latest exhibition by award-winning Windhoek artist, Imke Rust, opened in the Omba Gallery under the label “Made in China,” on Tuesday.

In this exhibition, consisting of works produced in China with traditional Chinese art materials, Rust provocatively challenges our preconceived notions and stereotypes about China. She presents us with yet another chapter of her art-making that incorporates several of her established key themes – such as the analysis of the human psyche and relationships – but expressed in refreshing and innovative ways inspired by her stay in China.

Curious about the old Chinese art tradition, Rust shared a studio with Swedish artist Torsten Jurell in China in 2008.

Her exhibition features her continuous exploration of the human spirit and personal relationships, in her decidedly unique and thought-provoking way. As usual, her choice of materials and way of expressing herself form an integral part of the multi-layered message that she wants to convey. The works seem more light-hearted and sometimes



*Artist Imke Rust, right, pictured with Wiebke Volkmann who opened the exhibition.*

move into the abstract, reflecting Rust’s experiences and feelings while in China. The fact that all the works have been produced in China gives the works a special sense of rarity.

There is a strong play between literal and abstract expression and meaning, for instance in the series “Dragon Looking for Love”, where an image of a friendly, imaginary dragon represents the

physical outline of the People’s Republic of China.

This body of work suggests that if we see into the heart of each other and past the politics, we realise humans and all living beings are united by the same basic needs and desires, like the need to love and be loved. The exhibition, which was opened by Wiebke Volkmann of Earth Wise Enterprise, is on until August 16.