

World under construction

By Candy Wu

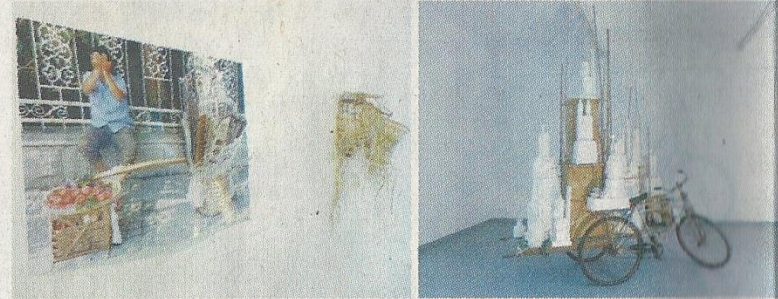
Photos courtesy of CEAC.

与欧洲相比,科技革命的大潮在中国姗姗来迟,却以迅雷不及掩耳之势改造着这个文明古国的面貌。这一现象引发了荷兰艺术家玛丽安·拉玛森的思考。

在上周六于中国欧洲艺术中心开幕的个展中,玛丽安呈现了传统与科技的对峙。象征传统的箩筐、老式自行车、中国传统文化图腾等,以及象征现代文明的高楼大厦、城市基建、现代都市人等,在天平两端进行着一场拉锯战。两者能够和谐相处,相互促进吗?现代科技究竟是推动社会前进的车轮,抑或是传统文化无法承受之重?所有这些只能留待观众自己思考权衡了。

Dutch artist Marianne Lammersen launched a solo exhibition at the Chinese European Art Center last Saturday, presenting a dozen collage works and two installations. All the exhibits but one are new creations that Ms. Lammersen developed during a four-month residency in Xiamen. Her time in Xiamen was spent pondering the relation between high technology and modern life.

"I'm very concerned with this issue because I come from a small village in the Netherlands with a slow pace of life and I'm astonished at China's rapid development in recent years," said Ms. Lammersen. Old buildings are being pulled down each day, giving way to new skyscrapers," she added. "I first visited China in 2008 and when I came



to Xiamen this September, things were totally different."

Though she personally prefers to hold on to traditions, Ms. Lammersen's attitude toward modern technology is mixed. "I just want to create a break in the daily hectic pace of the modern world, a meditative moment, in which the viewer contemplates himself or herself and is challenged to question our position in this world of continuously evolving technology that surrounds us," she added.

The major work of her residency program is a colossal installation in the center of the exhibition hall that comprises a bike and sidecar carrying 15 modern buildings made from porcelain and held in place by a bamboo framework. The old vehicle, typically used by manual laborers, literally and metaphorically carries the heavy load of modern civilization.

All stages of the building construction process are visible in Ms. Lammersen's installation. The exhibition collectively suggests that cities evolve continuously is a non-stop movement and that the world is always under construction. A light on the floor beside the installation throws shadows on the wall that expands the installation's sense of scale. "The buildings become more overwhelming on the wall and the shadow of the turning wheels represent the continual growth of society," explained Ms. Lammersen.

The exhibit runs through December 29.