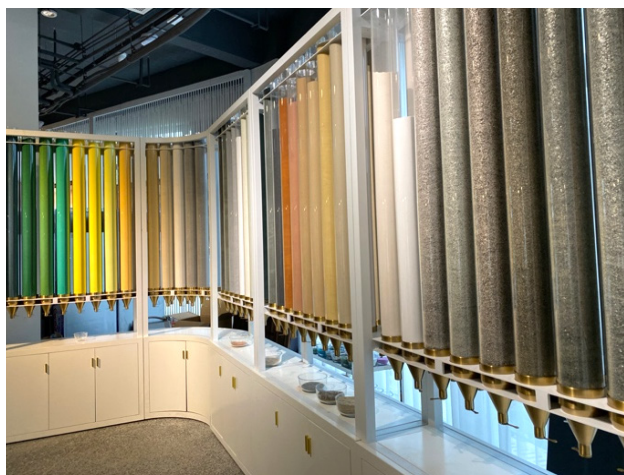


DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art by Rainer Stegmann

Last December I visited the beautiful picturesque Zhangjiajie natural park in Wulingyuan in Hunan Province, China. This UNESCO world heritage site consists of karst mountains with up to 200 m high sandstone pillars. After two days of hiking in this unique landscape (some call this area also Avatar mountains) my guide showed me a very special art museum: the Zhangjiajie Junsheng Sandstone Painting Institute. This museum was named after Li Junshen the founder of sand stone painting and houses only paintings created in this technique. "Sheng Painting is a new kind style which uses natural materials, like sand, stone, plants. It makes a breakthrough about drawing materials developed from minority 's art and absorbs the other style's advantages". <https://www.discoverzhangjiajie.com/junsheng-sandstone-painting-institute.html> In this institute there is also an education center where students learn this technique.



The artists use differently colored sand of different grain size and sprinkle it on stone plates and other materials. At the end the sand is fixed for preservation.

The results are amazing. I present 3 examples of very different character. One can only see the grains of sand when you get close to the painting. Amazing how he achieves all the nuances like in an oil painting.



Li Junsheng. Flowers.



Li Junsheng, Mountains.



Li Junsheng, Landscape.

These very beautiful sand paintings show the character of the objects in an impressive way. But what has this kind of art to do with waste? Sand and waste wood, plant residues that are also used as materials often become waste. Large constructions may produce a lot of soil without further use in that area. For non-useable sand and other kinds of uncontaminated soils and inert materials the landfill Category 0 was introduced in Europe with different requirements to be met. We experience more often that products suitable for further use like textiles, smart phones and sand become waste often due to non - available users and/or for economic reasons. To find ways for further use of such materials is one of the great challenges we are confronted with in waste management. Sand painting will not solve that problem but may point to it.



In the next issue of DETRITUS I will present a sculpture from N'Dorah, a well known artist born in Cameroun now living in Paris and Venice. She is exhibiting also at the Venice Biennale. She uses different materials including fibres from different origin.