

Erny Piret (Former curator of the ASIA-EUROPE EXHIBITIONS) wrote:

For me Lithuania was a distant country. I have learnt to appreciate Lithuania because of the importance which this country gives to the textile art. We are proud to present the exhibition “SMALL SIZE WORKS” in this wonderful museum situated in one of the most ancient towns of Lithuania.

First of all, I would like to thank to the director of this museum, Mrs. Dalia MINKEVIČIENĖ-JAZDAUSKIENĖ, for agreeing to present this international exhibition. It was a big challenge to present 147 works by 90 artists from 22 countries. I am also very grateful to Miss Gertrūda Žiliūtė, the curator of Janina Monkutė-Marks Museum, for her excellent collaboration.

My first interlocutor in Janina Monkutė-Marks Museum was Mrs. Asta Fedaravičiūtė-Jasiūnė. I continue to keep in touch with this kind person. She informed the Lithuanian artists and suggested them to participate in this exhibition. I wish a lot of happiness to this young mother.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Virginija Vitkienė, the manager of the Kaunas biennial, and to Mrs. Jolanta Šmidtienė, the director of Lithuanian Textile Guild, as well. In 2009 both of them agreed to present the Asia-Europe exhibition at the “Balta” Gallery as a satellite event of the biennial. For me this was the beginning of a wonderful adventure. I would like to thank warmly to all the artists who created special artworks for this exhibition with a lot of enthusiasm.

In order to reach the splendor of this exhibition, I contacted well-known European artists. All were enchanted by the opportunity to participate in this exhibition. But I also gave a chance to young talents.

I am very grateful to my friends Giancarlo and Maria Luisa Sponga for their precious help. Without them it would have been impossible to contact numerous artists from 18 European countries. All the European members of our group supported the idea to present the exhibition in this museum and offered their help to find the excellent works.

I admire the creativity, enthusiasm, determination and courage of the Asian artists. I always keep in contact with Japanese and Korean artists, who participated in our first exhibition in the Asian Art Museum of Fukuoka, and who are now the members of the Asia-Europe group. The Asian artists are wonderful creators but they also have great human qualities, such as the group respect, as well as the compliance with the taken decisions and recognition.

Kakuko Ishii and I belong to different generations; our cultures are also different; we have different lifestyle and live in different continents. Nevertheless, a strong friendship has been connecting us since 2004. I was very delighted to find out that she accepted to continue our project of showing the exhibitions with artworks created by the Asian and European artists. She is an efficient and serious leader. I wish her a successful continuation of her work and a lot of future possibilities.

I hope that after this exhibition, “Janina Monkutė-Marks Museum” will be appreciated within 22 countries of Asia and Europe – the motherlands of the participants.