



Check list for Artists in Residence

>Before coming to China

- When you submit your AIR application form to TCG Nordica, also pay the administration fee 500 RMB (see AIR information) Be sure to put “*your name + AIR administration fee*” in the message field.
- Inform the gallery curator at TCG Nordica what flight number, day, time and from where (domestic or international) you will arrive.
- If you would like to print catalogues or postcards, it’s much cheaper in China than in eg Scandinavia. Prepare photos/digital files that you could use for printing to bring with you. If you need any special materials (such as special paper, special print equipment, etc), contact our gallery curator in good time before you come to China.
- You need a mobile phone as an AIR at TCG Nordica. Check with a store before you go if you can use the one you have with a Chinese SIM card? (Your phone may for example be “locked” to a telecom company, such as Tele2, Telenor, etc.) If all is OK, you may buy the SIM card in China after arrival. If necessary, you can buy a cell phone in China. It is very cheap to make phone calls here in China.
- Visa and MasterCard work well in Chinese cash machines. You can withdraw 2000-2500 CNY each time. Always pay with cash everywhere! (It can be good to check with your bank how much you must pay for international withdrawals. Some banks do not charge this service!)

>At Arrival

The AIR program cost will be paid in cash when you arrive. We also expect guestroom and studio payment in advance per month or week.

>Good to Know for the Artist in Residence

Important Contact Info:

Mr Lou Fei - Gallery Director / Curator: luofei@tcgnordica.com

Ms Helena Berggren - TCG Nordica /ArtsNordica International Coordinator:
helenamariaberggren@gmail.com (Contact in Scandinavia)

During your stay, we are honoured to assist you with these important things:

- TCG Nordica's staff will meet you at the airport and take you to the guest apartment.
- Give you info about how to order food, go by taxi etc. in Chinese. Very few people know English.
- Introduce you to TCG Nordica, our activity's and staff.
- Arrange a welcome dinner.
- Gallery Organizer will give you all the help you need in the first week, about 15 hours.
- During your stay as our AIR guest our staff will help you about 5 hours a week with that you need help with, for example buying materials or meet other artists.
- We have good contacts with different art communities and universities and they are happy to have foreign visitors or guest lecturers.
- The gallery curator will also meet with you regularly, to help you plan your visit.
- Obtain a Chinese mobile SIM card and show you how to call abroad with IP card.
- Introduce your transportation, as taxi and busses, and how to get to know Kunming.
- Advice on how to stay healthy and where you find western doctors if needed.
- Accompany you to buy a bicycle (300-450 RMB)
- Give information and an address list of where to buy artist material. You will find the prices very low here. Heaven for an artist!
- Help with information about transportation of your works, eg. from China – Scandinavia (for more info and price examples, see below)

>Post to you/TCG Nordica

...may be sent to:

*TCG Nordica, Chuangku(loft)
Xi Ba road no.101,
Kunming(650032)
Yunnan, China*

Write any staff's name as the receiver, then please your own name so we will know it is for you. (The Chinese staff's name can eg be Wu Yuerong or Luo Fei.)

“This is China” - welcome to the culture shock!

When you come to China, be aware of that you need time to take in the different culture and that it may take time before you can get started on your artworks.

The guestrooms and galleries at TCG Nordica may be of lower quality than those you are accustomed to in other countries, but we can assure you that our guestrooms and studios are much higher quality than common standard in China.

No apartments in Kunming have central heating, but our guestrooms have electric heated blankets for use during the winter.

Kunming is 2000 meter above the sea level and it is known as “the city of eternal spring.” However, the winter can get chilly, especially inside. You are advised to bring warm clothes for the months November to February.

You should bring anti-diahrrea medication as many foreigners have trouble adjusting to Chinese cuisine. However, these problems are rarely severe.

Welcome to TCG Nordica and China!

>Transportation of Artworks from China to abroad

These are your alternatives of transport:

Recommended: Bring it with you

TCG Nordica recommends that you bring your artworks along with you when you go, as regular luggage on the plane. Paintings can for example be rolled up and put in a tube.

This is certainly the cheapest, most convenient and safest way to bring your things home.

Post Office – if you risk overweigh luggage

The Chinese Post Office works with thick cardboard boxes and bags that are sold from the Office itself. Bring your things to the Office and pack them on the spot.

NOTE that the post regulations demand the staff to check all your goods for illegal items.

You may send your goods by plane, boat or land. Various prices and time spans.

Your box may be held up by the customs at the border, but will then be delivered to your home address.

Complicated: Logistic Company

With a logistic company, you may send very large items, but the process is complicated and the laws and regulations in China differ greatly from eg Scandinavian countries. It is not uncommon that boxes are held up by customs in China, and extra fees or tax need to be paid by the artist. If this happens, you need a Chinese counterpart to help you out with custom contacts. TCG Nordica can do this, but since it means much work and complications for us, we charge an extra fee (according to how much time and effort we need to put down) for this service.

If knowing this you still want to use a logistic company, please also consider:

1. Box. The cost for making a box of special wood (same quality as smoked wood, but cheaper) may differ greatly.

2. Transportation costs. To transport 1 m³ goods could cost 4500 - 6 000 CNY, PLUS some extra to the local company. Some are payed in China and some from your home country. These costs may also differ greatly.

3. Transportation time: To Sweden, at least three weeks. The transportation time depends on the way of transportation (plane, boat, etc.).

Do not forget there may be extra taxes to be paid when the goods reach the customs in your home country.

Important: Your goods, your responsibility

TCG Nordica does not take responsibility for sending off your goods after you have left China. Therefore, make sure you start arrangements to send it in good time (at least 7 days) before departure.

Examples of transportation prices, Logistic Company

(NOTE: In China, we don't use the English abbreviation "CNY" for our money, but instead "RMB", which is short for "ren min bi" = the peoples currency.)

Here is information about transportation by boat from Huangpu (Guangzhou), China, to Oslo, Norway (by a Shanghai international transportation company) in 2008:

USD130/cubic (Exchange rate at the time 1 : 7.8)

Acting export declaration charges: RMB1500 / votes

Documentation: RMB150 / votes

Kunming short freight: RMB300 / vehicle (from Kunming to Chenggong Wangjiaying railway station)

Inland Freight: RMB550/T or RMB150/cubic (from Chenggong Wangjiaying railway station to Guangzhou Railway Station, three days maximum)

Guangzhou short freight: RMB300/vehicle (from Guangzhou Railway Station to transportation company port warehouses at Huangpu Guangzhou)

Timetable: 5 Weeks

Note: If you use natural wood boxes for packaging, these must go through fumigation (to prevent transfer of exotic organisms between countries). Lowest cost = RMB300/BL.

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Stimulating reflection on human worth as expressed in various Art Forms.

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