

## **Great art on the Elbdeich (Dyke)**

### *1. Subheading*

*Sculptor Iris Rousseau and husband Eduard van Leeuwen (second from right) were pleased to present their guests of honor at the opening in the Studio: (from left) Mayor Andre Wiese, Ambassador Sarrath Kongahage and guest art painter, Lester Ruhunuhewa.*

In the next two weeks, visitors now have the opportunity to appreciate great art at the Hoopster Elbdeich. Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Germany and Winsen's Mayor Andre Wiese also came to the opening of the exhibition by Iris Rousseau. An artist from Sri Lanka presented his paintings within the framework of Rousseau's exhibition.

### *Heading of the article:*

Naemi and Naima are the real stars.

Iris Rousseau has opened her atelier in Hoopster for two weeks.

### ***By Alexander Bach***

Hoopster. The opening words of sculptor Iris Rousseau at this year's exhibition in her Studio behind the Hoopster Elbdeich sounded almost like an apology: "Actually, I wanted to use the time since the last show, two years ago, for myself and for my artistic reflection. But, it turns out, that I cannot live without my art. Art is like a drug for me." and so, the artist presented two new gems of her work, created together with her husband, Eduard van Leeuwen.

Before the presentation in the Studio, an important announcement was made: the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Germany, Sarrath Kongahage, came to Hoopster, at the invitation of the artist. The Ambassador introduced his fellow Sri Lankan, this year's guest artist, Lester Ruhunuhewa. With heartfelt words the Ambassador expressed in this context the appreciation for the increasingly good bilateral relationship between the two countries, especially in the field of art since the establishment of diplomatic relations 60 years ago.

Winsen's Mayor Andre Wiese expressed his pride in regard to the importance of artistic creation by the couple Rousseau/van Leeuwen for the Elb-town of Hoopte, but also for the wider surroundings. He stated that he spoke for many guests of the Vernissage, pointing out, that one could quickly forget the time while looking at the works of art in this gallery.

Then came the important moment for the artist: together with her husband, she unveiled their latest creations. First "Naemi" (Hebraic: "the Beautiful") saw the light of the art world. She was followed by "Naima" (Arabic: "the Carefree"), the second sculpture. Both are provocative, female creatures, expressing the sensual, erotic style of Iris Rousseau. This time, the appearance of the provocative nature though is different: the viewer looks directly at their faces and recognizes pure passion and assertiveness. This is not humility. It expresses power of will. Directly after the unveiling, the sculptures were surrounded by the audience.

In presenting the guest artist, Iris Rousseau pursues a beautiful tradition which has continued for several years. This year's exhibition shows works of the painter Lester Ruhunuhewa, who is visiting from Sri Lanka. In a fascinating display of images he portrays his cultural environment of Sri Lanka against the background of the tropical and sun-drenched landscapes in close connection with the Buddhist religion of his home. The artist gains his inspiration from walks in nature and an attentive perception of his environment.

The exhibition is open until Sunday, 17 November, Monday to Friday from 2 pm to 7 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm to 7 pm, and by appointment via phone: (04171) 63546.

## 2. Subheading

*Iris Rousseau and Eduard von Leeuwen reveal "Naemi", the first of two new sculptures.*

## 3. Subheading

*The painter Lester Ruhunuhewa is the guest of honour at this year's exhibition in the Studio Rousseau.*