

In May 2016 I participated in the **V Wool-Art-Symposium** in Spain, close to province Talavera, Toledo. Our group was composed of nine artists from all over the world: America, China, England, Germany, Holland, Ireland and Wales. During this symposium I created an art project in midst of nature, consisting of sheep wool and titled "from close by and far away". This art piece can be experienced by walking through it; where landscape art is connected with the old yoga traditions of mandala's and yantra's. On the Spanish hills I created a circle like shape, which I "coloured" with the help of nature's attributes. For the colour white I used the sheep wool, green was represented by twigs from a local plant, black consisted of burned branches and for the colour purple the blossoming lavender was used. This led to the emergence of a mandala with a diameter of 30 meters. The view from our farm, where all artists stayed during the symposium, allowed to experience the artwork as a whole. Being at the site of the artwork itself, one could experience the individual elements of the piece, like the stones that held the sheep wool to the ground or the intense purple of the lavender. The title "from close by and far away" explains the symbolism behind the project. Whenever you find yourself facing a problem you cannot solve, take some distance, which then allows you a new perspective and better view on the problem as a whole. However it also works the other way around, if you're incapable of seeing the small things in life, you might miss the details which would help you solve the problem. So this work incorporates two different perspectives; distance to see the whole picture and close by which allows for seeing details that would have stayed hidden from far away.

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