

Report

Everything started from my imagination of Switzerland before coming. I tried to get basic understanding of the country by Google searching. But what I felt here and my experiences were much more wonderful than the expectation.

I can't describe how amazing the train journey from Zurich to Bellwald was. That was the exterior side. Since coming here, I have been able to sense both exterior side and internal meaning of things.

I came here in April right when the season was changing. A lot of and beautiful snow, high mountains. High mountains, forest and blue sky reminding me of Mongolia. Actually the blue sky and similarities helped me to adapt here easily. My first impressions of Bellwald were one that is good and one that is not so good. The good was that the beautiful nature and it being one of Switzerland's classic villages. Not so good one was that there was almost no one in the streets and it seemed like an empty place. I felt like I was left alone. But I tried to look at the positive and this quietness helped me feel my surrounding better and find the subject of my project. In other words, it helped me concentrate.

In this time, I realized that that this was not a distant journey but an internal journey to face myself. Even though I travelled to many places in Mongolia, the longest trip was 22 days. I had felt that these 3 months would make me encounter and realized many things. Then began the second part of my journey, in which I met several professionals and decided on the photography subject of the next days. All the people I met were leading professionals in their fields and I was able to harness information that I couldn't even find in Google. After all this, I would like to thank Blanche who organized and planned all the meetings very well for me. But during this time, I kept taking photos and the unity of the trio - me, my camera and the nature was always there. I tried hard to understand the language of the nature and kept going around taking photos.

After the 3rd week here, I completely adapted to the environment and became able to travel independently. That was the time I found my subject. As my graphic design projects of last 2-3 years were on this subject and I had background experience, Climate Change was close to me. I travelled through many cities and villages and turned my imagined scenes into real photos.

I learned that Switzerland is one of the top countries in the world in sustainable development and green future. In one word, it is the most human centric country in the world. In every aspect, it made me realize it is the key feature of highly developed countries. But I tried to avoid focusing on attractive tourist style photography. Instead, I tried to take photos of the real side based on my intuition. It is significant that my photos here could capture these moments.

This exhibition and art residence program taught me a lot of things. I want to initiate and implement a lot of learning and experiences from here in Mongolia. Thank you, SMArt program, Artbellwald and Switzerland. I will surely come back, with updated goals and ambitions.

Tamir Bayarsaikhan

Bellwald, 3rd of July, 2018