



Art for sport's sake in Shenzhen

ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS ENJOY VILLAGE'S ARTWORK DURING THEIR DOWN TIME BETWEEN EVENTS



CHEN XIAO / CHINA DAILY

Ellis Dawson, manager of the US men's basketball team, takes a look at some calligraphy at the Universiade Village.

BY CHEN XIAO
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Tucked away deep inside the Universiade village — amid a convenience store, bank, post office, bookstore and barber shop — is an open space lined with photos, paintings and calligraphy.

"I pass by here almost every day, but I didn't really pay much attention to this area," said Ellis Dawson, manager of the US men's basketball team, as he examined photos of Shenzhen's development over the past 30 years.

"I'm a fan of photography myself. Look what I've missed."

The Cultural Experience Zone boasts nine art exhibitions, including photography, oil paintings, printmaking art, Chinese ink-and-wash painting, gardening, sculpture and artwork by primary and secondary school students in Shenzhen.



CHEN XIAO / CHINA DAILY

Emily Godley, a weightlifter from the UK, enjoys the artwork.

"It provides a platform to showcase the history and society of Shenzhen, as well as a window to international cultural exchange," said Zhang Lili, manager of the zone.

"By showcasing various art forms and aspects, we want to present to the village residents a fashionable campus culture,

the characteristics of Shenzhen culture and traditional Chinese culture," Zhang said.

The exhibit runs until Aug 26.

Among the exhibition areas, one corner in particular has caught the attention of many visitors — an exhibition of fine art made by primary and secondary school students in Shenzhen.

They were selected from more than 10,000 entries dedicated to Universiade athletes.

After the games, the works will be given to the athletes as gifts.

"They are absolutely neat and precious. I'm surprised that younger students in the city would make the effort and contribute to this event," said Emily Godley, a weightlifter from the UK. "I really wish I could take one piece home."

Dawson was also impressed, but more importantly, he said, such exhibitions helped him know more about the local culture.

"These works all present different sides of traditional Chinese culture which I can't find in my country. It's not my first time to China, but each time I come here I find the traditional art most attractive," Dawson said.

"This is what makes the world smaller."

Q & A >>

Tatiana Galicia was born on January 12, 1984 in Mexico City and is an athlete from Mexico. She competes in diving and represented Mexico at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.



What are your expectations at this competition?

A: I just came back from the World Championships in Shanghai, and I was quite satisfied with the result. So, for here, I really haven't thought too much about the result. Just try my best and take it as an exercise.

How do you feel about life in the Universiade Village?

It's a really cool place. Everything is colorful and pretty. The dormitory is small but warm and comfy. The food is fantastic.

What is one interesting or impressive thing about the village?

A: I loved the hair salon here. I had a haircut the other night. It's a really cute place. All the services, the way they wash your hair, and the massage. We don't get all that when we cut our hair in Mexico.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Me and my teammates like to watch the performances near the lake every day. They are fun. And at other times, I like to just walk around the village because this place is gigantic.