



Miaoli farmers turn paddy fields into customized art 稻田彩繪 客製化一級棒

Miaoli's **paddy fields**, which were once used only for growing rice, have been transformed into canvases for expressing love. Yuanli Farmers Association has been promoting paddy art for the past nine years, and now that they have perfected the art, they are accepting requests for customized paddy "paintings."

Liang Ruei-hsu, the head of Yuanli Farmers Association's promotions department, said that most people are curious when they see the dark mauve color of Indica rice plants, so by using these plants along with green plants they can create paddy art and provide employment opportunities for farmers.

Liang says that the association has become very proficient at paddy art and can provide customized creations, whether they are signs, **characters**, pictures or letters.

In June, one man used paddy art to successfully propose to his girlfriend. Chang Chia-wei, an employee at a paper company, paid NT\$30,000 to get the association to write the message "Yen Ju, Follow me OK." When Liao Yen-ju, his fiancée, saw the rice paddy, she immediately accepted his proposal in front of a cheering crowd of friends.

Paddy art started in 1993, in a village called Inakadate in northern Japan. Although the village has a population of less than 8,500, its paddy art attracts 170,000 tourists per year and brings in a steady stream of income to the local economy. According to news reports, the management office makes NT\$1.2 million dollars annually from rent, planting and field maintenance, but visitor **donations** typically come in at around double that figure.

To create paddy art, the farmers first make a **grid** on the ground and then create an outline of the pictures or words they want to create, before finally planting the mauve rice plant seeds. Seeds can be planted twice a year, toward the end of February and July. (LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

▲ 粟以往只能種米的稻田，最近搖身一變成為示愛的畫布。苑裡鎮農會推動稻田彩繪邁入第九年，如今稻田彩繪技術成熟，還可接受「客製化」彩繪。

苑裡鎮農會推廣股長梁瑞旭說，一般人對在來米的紫色稻穗感到好奇，所以利用紫色及綠色兩種稻穗，創造稻田彩繪，提供農友就業機會。

梁瑞旭說，苑裡鎮農會的稻田彩繪技術已經純熟，不管是圖

騰、文字或圖案、英文字母都可提供「客製化」服務。

六月份就有一位男子，借助彩繪稻田之力，成功地向女朋友求婚。在紙廠上班的張家瑋花了三萬元，委託農會在一幅彩繪稻田上寫著「Yen Ju, Follow me OK」（研如，跟著我好嗎），結果女主角廖研如看到字樣後，在朋友的歡呼下接受求婚。

事實上彩繪稻田藝術於一九九三年，在日本北部的田舍館村誕生。該村人口不到八千五百人，每年卻因此引來十七萬觀光客，各個爭先恐後的想一睹稻田上的圖案，也給當地帶來龐大商機。據報導，田舍館的稻田租金，種植與維護費用每年約台幣一百一十二萬元，但參觀民衆的捐款就多達台幣二百二十四萬元。

如要在稻田上畫出圖案，必須在稻田上以線條畫出格子，然後依照圖樣訂出座標，描出圖樣或字體的輪廓，再種下紫色秧苗。每年的二月底與七月底則為插秧期。 (自由時報記者張勳騰)

An undated photo of a customized paddy art piece created by the Yuanli Farmers Association for a marriage proposal in June.

PHOTO: CHANG HSUN-TENG

這張日期不明的照片中，所呈現的是苑裡農會替六月求婚的顧客所製的彩繪稻田。

照片：自由時報記者張勳騰

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **paddy field** /'pædi fild/ n.
稻田 (dao4 tian2)

例：The farmers discussed how to irrigate their paddy fields.
(農人們討論著如何灌溉他們的稻田。)

2. **character** /'kærəktə/ n.
字 (zi4)

例：James got some Japanese characters tattooed on his back.
(詹姆斯在背後刺上了幾個日本字。)

3. **donation** /do'neʃən/ n.
捐款 (juan1 kuan3)

例：The museum relies on donations from the public.
(博物館仰賴民衆的捐款。)

4. **grid** /grɪd/ n.
方格 (fang1 ge2)

例：The town center is a grid of wide streets.
(市中心是個寬廣街道組成的方格。)