

Asian Aquiline

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sketch

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In 2010, Jeppe interviewed a German gallerist who left the art field. Disillusioned with the process of placing value onto concepts, he went in search of a sophisticated cultural form with a foundation of objective reasoning.

He found this in Taiwanese tea, where a tea master, holding a used leaf, can tell you what time of day it was picked, which way the wind was blowing, and where its quality lies: deep knowledge as the basis of direct value. His interest piqued, the gallerist made subsequent attempts to introduce the practice to Germany, the question being: how does one start a ritual where there is not one?

Ultimately, his enterprise was confounded by a broad range of cultural structures, reducible to the clichéd divide between East and West. Informed by the themes of master culture, vernacular habits, anti-globalism and the difficulties of cultural transposition, Jeppe travelled to Taiwan in 2012 to conduct his own research on tea and its surrounding context.