

Cover Feature

Monday 22 June 2015

Cute crops

in the county of Pingtung, something unusual. It is a large picture made by of rice! The crop spells out the words 'LINE FRIENDS LOVE♥ PINGTUNG' and '屏東!' The unexpected art was created to celebrate the International Rice Art Festival (國際彩稻藝術節).



Rice art

This kind of art is called rice paddy art (稻田畫), and originates from a village called Inakadate (田舍館村) in Japan's (日本) Aomori Prefecture (青森縣). Since 1993, there has been an annual festival there, featuring pictures of famous figures, such as the Mona Lisa (蒙羅麗莎) and Marilyn Monroe (瑪莉蓮夢露). The International Rice Art Festival in Taiwan is in its first year.





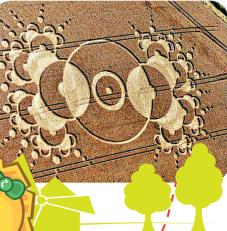




Unexplained inspiration

Japanese paddy art was inspired by crop circles that appeared as early as the late 17th century in Britain (英國). These are mysterious patterns that appear in crops fields without any natural explanation. Beginning in the second half of the 20th century, reports of crop circles became **numerous**. The Japanese (日本人) used them as inspiration for their paddy art.





Some people believe aliens create the crop circles!

Patient paddy artists

To make paddy art, artists draw a digital picture on the computer. Then, markers are put in the paddy field to tell the farmers what type of rice to plant in a particular area. After planting, they have to wait many months for the whole field to 'grow' into an amazing picture!



