

MICHAEL REIGNS SUPREME

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Photographer Michael Chia, with whom *Together* has enjoyed an excellent collaboration since the magazine's early days, is all set to launch a new Brussels exhibition of his work, *Happy Rain*, which will offer a rare chance to enjoy 'getting wet' in Brussels.

First, a word of introduction, writes James Drew. The earlier days of this magazine were graced by the work and presence of Héléne Noël, a Namur-born artist and writer, who also happened to be the love of this writer's life.

She was taken from us far too soon, in June 2008, but thankfully at least her work remains, including the joyful, intoxicating articles that she wrote for *Together*. We would take the opportunity to re-share one of her features with you now, about Michael Chia's *Happy Rain* images – as a winner of Brussels' Hotel Berlaymont Silken Photoplate award (in which artists' work is chosen to appear on commemorative plates), Michael came into Héléne's orbit, and no one could write about this artist better than she did.

Take it away, Héléne – we miss you very much.

“ Michael Chia was not only baptized with an angel's name; he was blessed with angels' eyes, too. On his way back from Mongolia in May 2007, he landed in Seoul. That particular day happened to be Buddha's birthday, 11th May. Michael unfolded his digital camera in order to immortalize the multi-coloured, incensed, buried-under-flowers, (not to mention holy) festivity.

That's exactly when everything went wrong, or might have, if Michael was not...Michael. A huge tropical rain decided to fall – if Siddhartha Gautama had been hanging around, he would certainly have smiled at the ensuing panic. Everything was cancelled, drowned, washed away. No procession, no incense sticks, not even an already fading single flower. All that was left was a few tonnes of warm water and an infinite field of Korean umbrellas.





