

ERINNERUNGEN AN ULRIKE KOCH

In 1997 I saw the film *Die Salzmannen von Tibet* at the market in Cannes. The film made a deep impression on me.

I experienced the meditative long journey of a group of nomads to the salt lakes in Northern Tibet to collect salt in a ritual manner, in a kind of trance.

Cinematically overwhelming beautiful, rich in dramatic layers without added an explanatory dialogue.

I was extremely impressed.

We invited Ulrike to the premiere in 1979 in Amsterdam.

That was my first physical encounter with her (and the audience).

The film was an incredible success and was shown in Amsterdam for more than a year.

We had a very good match. A friendship arose, albeit at a distance; long telephone conversations about everything and we met each other at festivals when it was convenient; Berlin or Locarno. She asked me if I wanted to help her with her project *Asshak*, tales from the Sahara.

I did and for me it was a great honor to be able to work for her as a co-producer.

After *Regilaul*, a difficult period came for her, but she recovered and asked me in 2021 if I wanted to help her with her next project.

In March 2024 she called me with an emotional message. The disease had again revealed itself in full force. It would be her last stage.

I sent her, after a long, emotional and open conversation, a photo of wild Freesias and she texted back that she really loved those flowers and the refreshing scent.



We lose a special personality with her; as a human being and as a Buddhist; tolerant, full of compassion and a heart for nature.

She was an intelligent and talented filmmaker who will always remain in my heart.

I will miss her.

Gerard Huisman