



“inForm” –
A sports shirt made of Makrolon®



Project:	inForm
Client:	German Embassy in Beijing
Location:	Beijing, China
Market segment:	Art and Design
Product:	Makrolon® blue and Makrolon® white
Artist:	Li Jiwei



makrolon®

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There were several surprise winners at the Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing. One winner, however, was clear even before the games started: Makrolon® solid sheet from Bayer MaterialScience. This important international sports event has inspired more than just the athletes from around the world to give their best, and the organizers to provide top-of-the line sports venues. The German Embassy in Beijing was also paying homage to this prestigious mega event by presenting the art installation “inForm”. At 53 meters wide, 13 meters high and weighing 20 tons, this impressive work by the Chinese artist Li Jiwei is an exceptional work about sports. A total of 1,390 square meters of the high-tech plastic Makrolon® were used in the installation.

Makrolon® can even be thermoformed to a sports shirt

The unusual art work “inForm” consists of two large objects: a giant sports shirt covering the entire embassy building, and stylized stands. The sports shirt represents the hope for successful and fair competitions among the athletes, while the stands with their distinctive rows of seats symbolize the spectators’ cheering on the athletes to achieve top performance.

For the giant blue and white sports shirt, roughly 806 polycarbonate sheets were heated to over 100 degrees Celsius in a special oven. Then the artist shaped the sheets by hand before they were installed. That Li Jiwei selected Makrolon® is not a coincidence – he describes himself and his art with the Chinese adjectives “tòumíng” and “bāoróng”, which means both transparent and tolerant, generous, encompassing and integrating. Makrolon® solid sheets also offer significant processing advantages because they can be formed both thermally or by coldbending. “Its thermal formability makes Makrolon® truly an excellent material for artistic designs,” says Li Jiwei. It was indeed his intention to use Makrolon® in a very different form than in standardized industrial production.

A game of statics and dynamics, perfect in form

With its low weight Makrolon® is ideal for large surfaces, as the high impact and break resistance of the material guarantees high safety. Also, for an object of this size the architectural demands are important. The form must not only be visually attractive but it must also fit together from the point of view of structural engineering. It was also crucial that the material allowed additional work in order to secure the entire installation. Makrolon® fulfilled all the requirements.



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MF0225 e - January 2009



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