

TALKING TEXTILES

an initiative curated by Lidewij Edelkoort

In reaction to the powerful digital landscape of our lives, a craving for tactility and dimension has lead many established designers to reconsider the role of fabrics once again. Merging loom knowledge, narrative fantasy and high-tech production methods to re-affirm and re-state the primary impor tance of textile design. The near future will see the overwhelming revival of textiles in our interiors, covering floors, walls and furniture in an expansive and personal manner. These textiles will speak loud and clear and become the fabrics of life, narrating stories, illustrating pattern, whispering well-being and reviving the act of creative weaving.

It is impor tant to take notice again of contemporary textile because it is in itself an endangered species. Mills and factories around the world are vanishing one by one and educational institutions are downsizing their textile departments or replacing looms with computers, therefore soon textile talent may have no place to go...

Creativity is the only solution. No longer restricted to a two-dimensional plane, fabrics will be multi-faceted and now have the power to mimic the epidermis, embody new armour, illustrate and animate, or capture a moving image. The design world will work hand-in-hand with the industry to explore new frontiers and honour age-old traditions. The impor tance of the unique within serial production will demand that machines mimic the hand-made and that ar tisans will be par t of the design process. New definitions of contemporary culture will see the folk movement reinvent itself in order to maintain momentum.

Ecology and luxury will meet using natural dye and undyed fibre, bringing natural elegance to high-end interiors. The wellness industry will continue to influence a comfor ting aesthetic, giving the world tactile textiles that heal spiritually and visually.

Modernism is experiencing a strong revival with the echo of Bauhaus and Constructivism. Geometric shapes, square weaves and sturdy upholstery will soon frame and colour-block our interiors; at times using new techniques such as digital printing and computer programming to pop up from 2D to 3D and back. Machine and man will foster new relationships, as designers understand the balance between technology and craft.

Supported by the industry, this exhibition is par t of a new initiative to educate consumers and professionals about the impor tance of textiles for the future.

Follow this initiative further by visiting **Trend Tablet: trendtablet.com**

Despite their enticing tactile appearance, the works on show include delicate prototypes:
please do not touch the works in this exhibition

CURATED & ORGANISED BY:
Lidewij Edelkoort & Philip Fimmano

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We are on a quest to save the future of textiles—to honour and promote it, and to take it into new dimensions.

A selection of recent graduate talent showcases some of the most innovative ideas today: from a piece of cloth to a piece of furniture, from revived hand-wovens to the latest incorporation of technology, and from experiments in materials to mature clothes and knitwear collections.

Primal ingredients such as hide and wood are reconsidered; post-fossil forms that become contemporary interior elements that preview a future where man will live in tune with nature, embedding ecology into a philosophy of life. Matter is recycled and synthetics are seamlessly blended with natural fibre, creating new textile hybrids in an eco-tech approach to sustainability. A hunger for the authentic leads design to the well-being movement that continues to spread its wings. Telling stories enchants consumers, foreseeing the day when products will be embodied with character and soul.

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Since textiles have the power to reflect the fabric of our society, this survey of work provides an alternative solution to the problems of last century, with optimism and fantasy to transform our nomadic lives.

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