

Filtti newsletter 1/2018 translation

Front cover: dresses from the fashion show in St Petersburg

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Let us felt even tomorrow!

The preparations for Filtti 20th year exhibition are at full speed at the Finnish Craft museum and within our own group. The name for the exhibition was chosen "Felt for Tomorrow"; the theme being rather equivocal and extensive. In the planning meeting the curator Hannu Castrén hinted, that the name of the exhibition should be contemplated and opened.

I organized a questionnaire by email among Filtti board members – "what does the name "Felt for Tomorrow" bring into your mind? The answers were demonstrative, because everyone has their own opinion of tomorrow's felts coming from their own base. Among Filtti members there are people connected to felt in various ways; this is why I searched the view from the board members.

What is Felt for Tomorrow? It is transferring an ancient craft technique to the future as new products, new uses and material combinations. It is conducive for well-being, relaxing, even therapeutic craft technique in the hectic everyday life. It is the refinement of ecologic, versatile and ethical material. It is a way to become international and to use new stimulus via contacts, social media and internet. It is a way to export Finnish wool knowledge abroad. It is a possibility to create textile art. It is an experience for children, feltmakers of tomorrow. It is million different things.

These gathered thoughts have a seed for inspiration for each Filtti members. Accept the challenge bravely, experiment something new, play. Our anniversary exhibition will be the collection of our members. Make your own felt for tomorrow for the collective exhibition. Let us make sure that felt is being made tomorrow.

Eija, will felt tomorrow

From page 4 to page 14

Filtti members at felt even in St Petersburg during 4-7.11.2017

9th International "New Life of Tradition" felt event

Felt artist Yulia Orlova has already during their summer brought Russian feltmakers to see the Filtti exhibition at Kivipankki gallery in Jämsä. Last summer three Russian felt artists visited our exhibition and presented an invitation for Filtti members to visit this international felt event in November in St Petersburg. They told that it is the largest felt event ever arranged in Russia. The event is arranged annually and it gathers feltmakers, designers, felt artists and many art lovers together from various cities in Russia.

Piiku's Eeva Piesala had been in this event already many times and she told that the event is truly interesting, and the journey over had succeeded very well. Seven eager Filtti members travelled to St Petersburg with Eeva.

The event opened on Saturday. Elena Kondrasova welcomed us to the event. We mantled then the exhibition items we had brought with us. There were also Russian felt works exhibited: woolen paintings,

sculptures, clothing and accessories, interior items and art works. The feltmakers had illustrated various cities and place of the world in their works.

We continued to visit Pazuryk = ancient felts at Hermitage museum.

On Sunday we visited the Ethnographic museum. Among our group we had own expert of the cloths and accessories of Nordic nations, Kaija Paltto, who told us of the materials and various meanings of the works.

Then we returned to the felt event to see the felt fashion show of nearly three hours. There were 21 designers who exhibited your collection. There were clothes of featherlike thin combinations of wool and silk. Also combinations of fur and felt to knitwear or jersey materials. Each designer had her own style to make felt. Liza Labutina's festive dresses can be seen through this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/Cm9I_Nakdu-ezcy9Jql82gQ

During Monday, which was the last day of the event, there was a feltmaking contest; the participants had to felt jackets during the given time. Beautiful items were made! We made a toast to the successful event at the end. Filtti's chairwoman Eija Pirttilahti invited the organizers to join the exhibition this summer at Kivipankki gallery "Let's wear Felt!"

We were invited to visit Elena Andreeva's studio on Tuesday morning before our departure. We saw and tried on many hats and quite a few we took with us home.

Filtti's visit to this felt event fulfilled the organizers wish that feltmaking combines the whole world and this way we become closer to each other.

Heidi Halm

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Of feltmaking of a bit of something else

"Calling Card please"

"Oh, these cute things!"

"Creativity is blooming when one makes these!"

"... and then you sell these in the wonderful events – you have such an amazing job!"

Rue. Job is amazing. People think often, that craft people make a little thing what comes to mind and have fun. Then they pack with gentle hands products into luggage and go to entertain public at their sales tables...

Well, hands are often literally sore, working with wool is quite hard work. My products are mainly works by orders and customers are often large companies. A romantic thought of a peaceful search of the soul of wool like " what is the next creature of the wool bundles popping up now?" is very far from every day work.

When I get an order I check the quantity of materials, buy more if needed. Then check the deadline when everything must be ready to ship and divide the work for the following days. This is what I have do otherwise I get the awful feeling about the midpoint of the work that I have no chance of getting everything ready in time. Once I have about 150 pig heads ready and about the amount is waiting to be made, then it is truly smart to think about something totally different,,,

I do not have change color, since I have mushrooms growing in the bathroom. The mushrooms are just ready to be eaten and to be made for a pie. Here is a recipe for a mushroom pie, you may use champignon from grocery store or the mushrooms growing on your yard like chanterelle. In the spring I add a handful of cooked goutweed.

Base for the pie

about 100 grams soft butter

0,5 dl wheat bran

2 dl mixed cereal flakes

1,5 teaspoon of baking powder

1 egg

0,5 dl water

grease and sprinkle flour on a pie dish and pat the dough on the dish all over the sides and bottom. The place the dish into an oven for 10 minutes at 200 degrees C.

Filling

fried mushrooms about 2 dl, chopped onions can be added

chopped goutweed

3,5 dl sour cream -quark

2 eggs

half off packet of processed cheese, grated (brand in Finland Koskenlaskija)

grated black pepper

0,5 ts salt

mix all ingredients and pour on the pie dish. Bake about 30 minutes.

The pie is delicious when hot or even when cold!

To grow mushrooms is a wonderful hobby for a persons who wish there would be an autumn all the time. I wish you all nice and sunny aut... no summer!

Marika Halme

Embroidery in MUHU

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Hanne was on Muhu island between April 4th and 7th to deepen her skills.

In Estonia the flower embroidery is known as Muhu embroidery. According to handicraft history it started from Lihula as sewing roses and spread later on to the islands and the patterns became richer with field flowers, butterflies and birds. The seamen brought black woolen scarves to the beloved. These scarves had printed roses on them. There was only one beautiful scarf in the village or in the whole community. A smart Estonian woman copied the model using a sharp soap on black wool fabric and started to embroider that with threads. One flower or leaf has minimum three different shades, this making the picture very alive, even 3- dimensional effect. We came to learn the skill of painting with the threads.

Our teacher was a master of embroidery Velli Saapas. We started the course making a small button to experiment and then we could choose to make a book mark or a wrist band.

We also visited the workshop of the most talented embroider artist Sirje Tüüri. pages 24 – 25

Sirje's own studio Männiku Käsitöötuba is on her family's farm. She sells finished embroidery works from small pouches to large covers and wall hangings, also hats, boots and jewellery. The works were absolutely gorgeous – one could only sigh of admiration.

We visited the Muhu museum which located close to our accommodation.

The museum in the middle of historical Koguva village, the museum has several buildings. The center of Väljä house, which has an ethnographic textile exhibition. There were colorful national costumes, knitwear, mittens and socks and gorgeous bed spreads one more beautiful than the other. The museum has an estate as a great sample of Estonia's farm architecture, writer Juhan Smuul's birth home with its farming buildings. This estate was opened right after the death of the writer 1971. From 1990 the museum was named Muhu museum.

The journey to Muhu gave me more than I expected. I like flowers, then Muhu embroidery with its beautiful colorful flowers gave me a great boost to inspirations.

Hanne Alho

FIRST REGIONAL SOLE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR IS HANNE ALHO

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OSTROBOTHNIA, NATURE, PLAYFULNESS.

THESE THEMES INSPIRE HANNE ALHO WHO HAS NOW RECEIVED THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT “

FIRST REGIONAL SOLE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR”. THE FELTED PRODUCTS OF ATELJE HANNETAR ARE WELLKNOWN ALL OVER IN FINLAND

The entrepreneurs of Ostrobothnia gave the first regional sole entrepreneur award. According to the selection requirements she “revives the thousand year old felting tradition with fresh way” and “has created a successful company of her hobby”.

A door of a light color private house opens on Valotie in Jurva and a happy face greets the visitor. Hanne Alho is proud of the acknowledgment. It is at the same time an honor to the Finnish craftsmanship.

- As a handicraft entrepreneur this feels extremely grand. The Finnish handicraft is valued at the moment in homeland and abroad. Says the handicraft master who has been the entrepreneur for 16 years.
- Alho makes products for retailers and has a small boutique in her home for local customers.

- I also make works on commission. As example one can order a picture, hot pad or a wine cooler made of the fur of one's own dog. Almost all kinds of dog hair are suited for felting, Sheep wool fibres can be added to dog hair.
- For international markets
- The products have found their way to overseas markets.
- - The products go to USA and Japan. In Seattle there is a gift shop that buys regularly products. The Japanese customers found my products via a buyer at Forma trade fair. Christmas gnomes fascinated a Japanese customer so much that she contacted Hanne directly.

On trade fairs

Twice a year Hanne's most important events are Forma trade fairs.

- In the beginning I visited other fairs also. Now I go to some local handicraft fairs only. During summers I make felt for the fall seasons.
- From August until November I work at full speed. The Christmas season brings two thirds of my business.

Business idea came from a contest prize

Hanne has a master's degree in textile work (AMK). The base for her craftsmanship she had received in her childhood from both of her grandmothers.

- With one grandmother I wove with the looms and with the other grandmother is crocheted. My greatest strengths have always been creativity and good imagination.
- Hanne founded her company in 2002 when her Farm animal series won the national business gift prize. Then she was a handicraft teacher and realized that she could make sales with felted products.
- First couple of years I made felted products only part time. When sales increased I decreased my - teaching hours and started feltmaking as a full-time entrepreneur. I still have courses for adults and children at folk high school.

The growth of the product selection has forced the sole entrepreneur to rationalize her work method.

- All is made by hand, but I can make some work stages by series, The material is primarily Finnish sheep wool, which I buy from the Finnish spinneries. The new products for this spring are Easter bunnies and panda products.

An entrepreneur husband Tomi Alho, 16 year old Arttu and 13 year old Aada and a Leonberger dog and a cat belong to Hanne's family.

Outi Rantala

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Felted hearts

One of the works of last year was the felting of the hearts and the donation of them.

There is a constant demand of the hearts. Such a small thing has such a great influence!

Let's not quit now totally, let's make hearts even small amounts.

It would be nice to find out where you have donated hearts. I will wait for emails.

Sirpa Mäntylä

MAKE INTERIOR DECORATION WITH FELT – TOGETHER -EXHIBITION

Experience of felt products exhibition at Gallery Sará in Laukaa

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It all started from Leena Sipilä's idea, she asked me to join her in felt exhibition. At first I hesitated and thought, I do not have anything to show. Then I became excited of the possibility. We discussed and planned, then we made the reservation at the gallery for April 2018.

We chose interior felts for the exhibition. Handicraft shop Kädenjälki is a tasteful and comfortable boutique for handicraft products in the center of Laukaa and gallery space is a room in the back of the shop. The old beautiful doors lead to the space, during the exhibition the doors are kept open. Gallery is hosted by Mirja Autio, also a Filtti member.

Leena's wonderfully executed white curtain textiles were mantled lightly within the first walls as a group. In the center of the space we set Leena's Full moon textile and on the floor my blue Fairytale carpet. These items were seen to the boutique through the doors quite temptingly. The other side of the space got my colorful curtains and other textiles like the divider and headboard.

Together with three women we worked the exhibition according to our taste. My own works looked better there than at home I thought. Leena's beautiful white textiles soften my colorful ones to more docile.

During the month of April 500 people visited the boutique and saw our exhibition at the same time: number of visitors is great! We both are very satisfied to this experience and can totally recommend gallery Sará for an exhibition venue especially for a small group or one or two people.

Sirpa Mäntylä

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FILTTI 20TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION 2FELT FOR TOORROW"

VENUE: The craft museum of Finland in Jyväskylä

Felt for tomorrow. What it could be – here are some thoughts:

The first thought comes to mind is NEW, different, but a textile could be made in any duffereb'nt way, not a new material. Wikipedia mentions ecologic and ethic.

Thoughts wonder to the long tradition of felt, to the history but today and the future are, because we have got stuck to the traditions, the felt makers continuously are looking for new applications, materials to be combined with wool, develop new uses and implementation ja find also "old" in other words the reasons to use and re-use the fantastic qualities ecoogoc and natural wool. These reasons today address people again.

Different ways to make, combinations of materials and impressions received from all over the world are mixed via internet and social media... ecologic will be the triumph o fwool and fel even in the future.

THE IMPORTANT DATES AND REQUIRED INFORMATION:

- REGISTER TO THE EXHIBITION BY July 20th using the format on Filtti web site
- pho of the work for media release and for the planning of the exhibition together with information of the felt work (what it is and how you would want it to be presented) by email
- for the printed catalogue we need the following date of the feltmaker:

- own photograph (face photo), short, one line motto if you use one, contact details (internet address or email address)
- for QR information send extra info of your work, do you have a special technique and what is your favorite technique
- the felt works are to be sent to Jämsä latest by Friday 14th September in Finland via bus cargo from abroad by post or freight (when sending, make sure the parcel will be available at the date mentioned, because the jury of the works is due to take place on Saturday Sept 15th and Sunday Sept 16th, the photo shoot takes place on Sunday Sept 16th. The jury person is the fine arts critique Hannu Castrén. Photographs will be taken by photographer Olli Levaniemi.

It is vitally important that you deliver all information required complete and in time. We will order the catalogue from the printers in September as soon as the photos and texts are edited.

The timetable is tight and leaves no room for flexibility, all exhibition works will be placed in the deep freezer to avoid any moths or beetles. Before the mantling of the exhibition the museum conservator will check all works.

The opening of the exhibition is on Friday December 14th at 6pm – you are all welcome to join!

The exhibition is open until May 5th 2019. During the exhibition Filtii will have workshops at the museum during weekends twice a month. We will a list of the events on Filtti website Event in September. In case you have a good workshop idea, which you would like to tutor, please contact me by email.

The space reserved for us at the museum is large, it can take many works. Please contact in case you are not sure of your work, we can discuss the matter. This exhibition is a big challenge for us and also an honor.

Just imagine a small association has lived already 20 years and life continues – wool and felt is a grand material and feltmaking has numerous possibilities, opportunities and products have ever increasing uses e.g.in interior decorations due to the fantastic qualities of wool.
Sirpa Mäntylä

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LET'A FELT A CARPET

time: Monday July 2nd – Tuesday July 3rd

Place: Piesala sheep farm PIIKU Petäjävesi

If you are interested, contact Filtti by email immediately. The event is free of charge, you do not need to bring your own fibres. Only requirement is commitment to make felt and to the timetable, so we can get the carpet made.

Eija Pirttilahti will make the design and plans for the felt making. Piiku will donate the wool fibres and we will receive the inside needlefelt also as a donation. The meals are provided against a small charge. In case you have a food allergy, let us know in advance.

The Russian feltmakers who are invited to join the felt exhibition this summer, will take part in the feltmaking of the carpet.

Program

July 2nd at 9am

Eija will explain the procedure and divide the tasks. The day will end when the carpet is ready to be taken to Koskenpää felt factory to be needled.

July 3rd at 9am

we will meet at Koskenpää felt factory; the carpet will be put through the needling machine.

The Eija will take the carpet to her studio to be felted in the rolling machine during July.

August 6th at 9am

We will meet at Alho felt factory in Jämsä, the carpet will be fulled in the machine.

the whole process of making the carpet will be photographed and a video will be edited in Finnish and English.

The carpet and the video will be presented at the Filtti 20th anniversary exhibition at the craft museum.

Back cover:

an invitation to the summer exhibition in Jämsä "Let's wear Felt!"