

translation of newsletter 1/2020

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Chairwoman's article:

Felt is sparkling

The felt year 2019 is rushing towards the end. The last assignment for year 2019 is whose felt work is going to Akureyri next spring.

After the invitation two felt works have passed through two juries and they will be Filtti's show window to the world. They represent the expert know-how of Finnish felt, in its own way unique felt. All participants have surely invested in their works, found the spark and gained the passion to felt in them. I believe the Icelandic exhibition will be a huge cross section of our felt know-how.

Only a few have a possibility to participate on exhibitions far in the world. Hopefully disappointment will give strength to strive towards new challenges. The new year will present new exhibitions, they will require new felt works. Felt sparks will be annealed over and over. Then all of our know-how will be needed to continue the exhibition tradition.

Wishing all peace at Christmas and a Felting New Year

Eija

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An event in France

In mid October IFA from England together with the felt museum of Mouzon organized a three day event, the invitation came to board members of different European felt associations and to persons who do not have association. The event was the first international networking. They had planned 4 various workshops and an exhibition with the theme wearable art. I travelled to the meeting as Filtti representative.

The venue of the meeting was the felt museum in Mouzon France. Felt association had an opportunity to suggest a few felt artists to send their works for the exhibition based on the theme. Filtti proposed Elina Saari, Rutsuko Sakata and Mari Jalava. The team chosen by the organizers decided who to inviter; from Finland all three felt artists were chosen. Their felt works were sent already in August to France, thus the exhibition was waiting for the people who participated to the event at the museum.

All together 31 people from 14 different countries participated to the event. The journey to Mouzon was quite challenging; the place is not located close to any bigger city. It is in norther France close to southern Belgium border. Travelling with a private car is the easiest through Luxemburg from Germany, Italy and Holland, from Belgium there is 220 kms from Brussels airport. Mouzon is in rural countryside around small roads and winding rivers. You leave Finland in wintery weather in middle of fall brown season and get to enjoy there the perfect summer the greenness and flowers. The temperature was over + 20 degrees all the time.

The event was very well organized. Places for meetings and accommodations were many around Mouzon. The transportation worked fine.

The workshops were interesting. The participants were divided according to their wishes, so that everyone could be in two workshops.

- 1 International felt exhibition
- 2 The quality of hand made felt
- 3 The education of felting
- 4 Networking and the cooperation of felt organizations

I participated in two of the first workshops. We discussed the exhibition for a long time. The costs when transporting the exhibition from one country to another, the Customs arrangements between EU and non EU countries, who would bear the organization of the exhibition and jury, were found difficult. There were people from 10 different associations and we succeeded in our discussion well and came up with a good solution. IFA exhibition coordinator made notes and will send information later.

The quality criteria of felt was discussed and experience in different countries were compared. Commonly one fact was very clear: the traditional felting is the only and correct: wool, water and soap! Needlefelt is needling and only one aid. In Central Europe there are many different felt courses available, even meeting lasting many days, which we do not have in Finland. The question is of course of more people but also due to another fact; felting is becoming to be a new favorite. Many associations recommend the basic course for felting, this way the most important facts like the vital techniques and the correct vocabulary and the choosing of the correct wool for every work will be known.

I knew many participants already, some whose name was familiar but who I had not met before and a few totally new persons. The common factor always unites, there is joyful laughter, fruitful conversations and group meeting! A tight three days!

Sirpa

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The felt exhibition of last summer

The name of the exhibition was Something red.

The exhibition was full of different kinds of red, as one could guess. Some felt works were more discreet, only a hint of red, other had more color.

The international felt pieces came from Ireland. The collection of these felt works was versatile; there were funny innovations but also felt works with extremely touching stories. The Irish felt makers had searched the theme through their own history. The story in some felts was very important to the makers, even such that was never officially dealt with, like the massacre in Northern Ireland in 1976.

The works of Filtti members were born more from imagination. There were about 70 felt pieces; the downstairs hall and the rooms upstairs were full of felt. In total the exhibition was great; we had plenty of positive feedback and the result of hanging from the visitors.

The six Irish ladies visited Jämsä, their group was joyful, full of laughter. This was their first invited exhibition abroad.

The photos will tell of the exhibition the best. There is a photo of each work on Filtti website.

Sirpa

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Visiting the Kainuu grey sheep

In the summer we visited with our Irish and Russian guests in Jämsä the sheepfarm Ala-Kattelus to see the Kainuun grey sheep. This is another Finnish sheep race. The sheep are beautiful with grey fleece, big eyes and they are familiar with people. The lade of the sheepfarm has a motto on their website: "we grow sheep in small scale, but with even bigger heart".

Sirpa

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White Felt by the Estonian felt makers

In the beginning of October I visited the exhibition in Tallinn.

There were skilled works of 15 felt makers. The starting point for all works had been the usage of white wool in felting. Some of the works were totally white, some had a little natural color wool.

There were clothes, wall hangings and some three-dimensional works. My favorite was a white, work which reminded of a large pumpkin. I was pondering the technique.

Although the space was rather small, the works were exhibited nicely. With interest I will wait for the felt pieces the Estonian felt makers will have at Kivipankki gallery next summer.

Heidi Halm

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Felt exhibition at Kivipankki gallery 2020

The theme and name for next summer felt exhibition is THREE-DIMENSIONALITY. Three-dimensionality contains appendages: width – height – depth. Find information of the exhibition at Filtti website.

The venue is Kivipankki gallery, the space we have hung felt pieces already in two decades. The gallery is known to us all and we have found it well suited for felt.

Register via Filtti website and at the same time click the updated exhibition rules.

The Estonian felt makers have accepted our invitation to join the exhibition and also the theme.

We believe that we will receive diverse, exciting felt works for this exhibition.

The timing is July, more precise 29.6. – 3.8.2020

Join the exhibition!

Sirpa

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Recipe for Mushroom mousse

ingredients:

1dl of dried mushrooms; let them soak in water for a couple of hours

I used hyploma capnoides = conifer tuft, but other types of hyploma mashrooms will be ok.

2 pcs of eschalot (onions)

1 clove of garlic

little of oil for frying

black pepper

salt

a few branches of thyme

5 pcs of sundried tomatoes

2 dls of sour cream

1,5 dl of double cream

3 teaspoons of gelatin powder

2 tablespoons of water

1 teaspoon of lemon juice

4 pcs of brown bread as a form of a coffee cup

Squeeze the liquid off the mushrooms ja chops them into small pieces.

Chop onions fine and fry with the mushrooms.

Spice with salt, pepper and thyme leaves. Let cool.

Add chopped tomatoes, sour cream and double cream.

Let the gelatin powder soak a minute in water + lemon jice and put it into microwave for 30 seconds.

Pour that into mousse as a thin strip while mixing.

Spoon the mix into four coffee cups which have been lined with cellophane.

Put piece of brown bread on top and add cellophane on top.

Store in fridge for minimum 4 hours, preferable overnight.

Serve: overturn on the plate and decorate with pickled mushrooms.

Marika Halme

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EMMA the modern art museum of Espoo

look at the program <https://emmamuseum.fi>

Leena Aaltio