

ENGLISH translation of the newsletter

Filtti newsletter 2 2021

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Board members 2019 – 2021 see list on first page

Chairwoman's article

We are approaching the end of year 2021 ja living the festive time of darkness. Based on carefully spread handy crafts, wool, wool yarns and knitting are still in growing fashion. Knitting is easy, you can knit on your own sofa, the selection of yarns is versatile and available.

One would hope that the upthrust of wool would increase a deep and lasting interest for domestic wool. The whole year we have read news of largest operators of our textile field; they have invested on the further refinement of Finnish wool. Some new small spinning companies to enrich the selection of years. The continuation of the activity requires the strength of the entire production chain.

The exhibition activity in Filtti normalized during the year to physical exhibition instead of virtual exhibition. We all have surely been happy of the slightly free time and have visited frequently in exhibitions. Filtti's exhibition in summer is an essential part in Jämsä city culture and our work has been noticed. Finnish Felt association Filtti received a cultural award (this carries carpenter Viljo Järvinen's name) for its active, long-span and already traditional activity. We all, the whole association may be proud of this acknowledgement.

Felt making has started to show slightly in contemporary art exhibitions. The young sculptor pf 2022 Emma Jääskeläinen has experimented wool as material on her sculptures. The basic thought in sculpture and art is sempiternal, permanence and conservation, but maybe the thought could be a sculpture disappearing into nature?

Let us sleep with our wool the winter dreams with polar night and with the light increasing we may go further with water and soap sprinkling towards new felting challenges.

Eija

p.s. I wonder if we as felt makers could catch something of the hype of natural dying?

Woolism – wool felt today

text by Piritta Mäkinen, owner of Mustalammas spinning mill, designer

I am a felt maker by heart. I think wool felt is a perennial and functional, a wearer of modern man and an interior designer. Wool felt is a versatile, functional, easy care, beautiful and luxurious but also produced of domestic sheep fibers ethical and ecological. The sheep wool frill gets you always in a good mood. Ancient wool fades into the patterns of the urban world and softens corners of the complex issues of everyday life. The felt is full of permanence and gentleness. The wool product is an everyday luxury that, with its easy care and modern design language, acts as a dresser and decorator for the modern person. Now it is time for woolism!

From sheep farm to wool felt product

The longer I have worked with wool fibers the more fascinating wool frill becomes. The wool fiber is diverse in properties. With fiber sorting and purposeful finishing, the fiber works in many products and functions. Each curve in wool curls has a meaning. In Mustalammas (Black sheep) we process raw wool about 2500 kilos a year. Curls have a meaning. Same applies to race, wool fat and the length of fibers. Each curl has its place. The quality and features are selected according to the end products. In Mustalammas the raw wool is processed according to the quality as felting wool, nursing wool and various felts from gun barrel cleaning cloth to pre-blankets and felt caps. As wool worker I have personal meetings with sheep owners. The gathered wool network has taught how the sheep care and living conditions affect the properties of the fiber. My wishes have been heard we have learned together. It is a joy to reserve raw wool, when you know the living conditions of the sheep and the appreciation of the sheep owner's for the wool. It is a joy to reserve raw wool when you can trust the quality. At its best, the network has created inspiring collaboration and woolly development work. Together we are more.

At the end of the life cycle of the wool felt product

In the production of Mustalammas spinning mill the circular economy of wool and wool products has been developed for a few years.

Aspects of the circular economy have been worked on at each stage of the life cycle of the wool product, from the selection of the raw material to the utilization and packaging of the by-products of the carding plant. How can the life cycle of a wool felt product be extended? What is a responsible wool product like? How do life cycle perspectives materialize in a company? We have developed our production along these issues. We are heading towards zero loss. We have gone a long journey and it continues further.

Each curl has its place – also for wasted and sidestream wool. First zero-waste wool products are Jatkumo - side stream wool, a cleaning cloth for a gun barrel , a dog blanket and a pot holder and a tea cozy for the host school of Leineperi mill. Let us have the journey continue. Wonderful wool!

Wool mill rejoices wool in June 2022

The wool deserves its own feast. The storytelling Leineperi mill organizes a fest for wool already for the third time. The mill is an ode for wool. It is a wool fragrant and smiling event. The program has Wool art biennale -art exhibition, courses, work shows, sellers of products and material and wool friends. The event is 11th and 12th of June 2022. Mustammas and Leineperi mill are gathering the program for next year. Do you have an idea? Would you like to become as a seller, to tutor a course or to organize a work show? If you are interested, contact kehraamö@kehraamomustalammas.fi

KÄTKÖ / Cache or stasch – open invitation for Leineperi Woolart biennale 2022

Leineperi Woolart biennale is a woolen art biennale. Mustalammas and Leineperi mill invite artists and artisans to interpret with wool felting, rug technique, weaving or knitting stories of lost garden of the host and garden school of Leineperi mill. what is left in its present are memories, wild vegetation and the slag diploma to felt factory Lahtinen for thie 100ruins hidden by thick mosses.

Leineperi Woolart biennale is an open art exhibition for artists and artisans. The material for works is wool and the technique felt making, knitting, weaving or mixed media. The exhibition is arranged in Leineperi mill gallery and information. You may register one to three works for the Woolart biennale. The exhibition works

will be selected of the registered works. Registration is free of charge. The artists cover all transportation costs.

Registration

By email to kehraamo@kehraamomustalammas.fi by 19th April 2022. The selection will be made by 29th April and the works must be delivered to Mustalammas by May 15th 2022. Additional information by email from kehraamo@kehraamomustalammas.fi or by phone +358 44 2317961 Pirita Mäkinen

some photos on leineperinruukki.fi

Lahtinen felt factory – 100 years!

Jämsä entrepreneurs gave a diploma to felt factory Lahtinen for their 100 years of entrepreneurship.

“Not many company functions so that it gets along 100 years producing the same product and the sale still continues. But it does not matter, if the product is fine for the customers, we will continue the next 100 years”, Jukka Lahtinen mentioned in his thank you speech.

Wild of wool – fascinating felt flowers to Belgium

In October I flew to Brussels to tutor a felt making course. Travelling was easy, I had received precise information. I may enjoy the journey.

The story started 2019 from Mouzon France, Wearable art exhibition had my felt making item. The entrepreneurs of Vrou Wolle Hilde and Francoise saw my felt work and invited me to tutor a course at their studio.

Vrouw Wolle studio is located in Essen, in Belgium. The studio has visiting tutors from many countries. Also the entrepreneurs tutor some courses. The activity has some short courses of a few days and a three-year long felting academy, where they teach felt making from the beginning.

The studio is large and bright. The courses with over 10 persons have good workspace. There are a good and versatile selection of tools, wool fibers and other materials. Many feltworks in various techniques and vast selection of books are available.

The tutoring language was English. The students came from Belgium, Holland and one student came 600 kms from France. Almost every student was a felt maker and knew Vrou Wolle studio.

Before we started to make felt flowers I told them where I came from and my story to the world of felt. All students were extremely enthusiastic, motivated and skillful. After intensive two days students had made beautiful works. Many students are sending me photos of their new exhibitions and felt works inspired by my course. This warms my mind.

The trip was organized well, warm hospitality took part in everything. We made felt during the days, the evenings we spent at Hilde's and Francoise's homes with enjoying delicious meals,

In the course I did not only share my know-how, I also gain something valuable. I saw invigorating wonderful works – so different felt can be made using the same technique! Gorgeous various color combinations. Brave experiments. I gained huge amount of energy from the students of the enthusiastic grip, gaze, passionate felt making, deep talks and kindness. Felt connection, someone described.

The joy of sharing. sympathy for souls. Felt combines wild and wool fibers.

Mari Jalava

A Visitor to exhibitions every summer

Many hobby artist, especially a felt maker, stops in July knowingly in Jämsä Kivipankki gallery to see the summer felt exhibition; otherwise she would no have any business in Jämsä. This is how Ritva Oksanen's trip from Helsinki went to Tahko in the east.

Ritva herself has felt making as a hobby and she has already several years visited Filtti exhibition to get new ideas and techniques for her felt making. She has made several blankets, curtains and wall hangings, but clothes she has not felted. Even there are clothes in Filtti exhibitions, you can find new ideas for other felt items on clothes, Ritva says. When felt makings generally is thought of making felt boots and other traditional works, Ritva is interested in works that are novel and those inspiring her own felting.

Ritva makes also ceramic sculptures and paints with watercolors. She is interested to know how one can paint with different color wool fibers and make lights and shadows. Thus summer Ritva was inspired in Belgian Evelien Oosterling's felt work "Quiet reflections" ja she made her own work "Towards the light" using the same technique.

Lastly Ritva says that exhibitions have been good and it is great that Filtti exhibits felt in many ays.

Heidi Halm

Disappearing nature felt exhibition in gallery Palkki in Palokka library Jyväskylä

Duirng summer 2020 Disappearing nature felt exhibition was in Akureyri Artmuseum in Iceland. Nos in September the exhibition was built in the lobby gallery in Palokka library. There were 21 felt works in total, most of them were large requiring a lot of space around them. There were 21 Filtti members' works; those were juried by visual art critic Hannu Castrén before the works were sent to Iceland. 5 felt works were by Icelandic felt artists.

Gallery Palkki is in the lobby of the library. Gallery has glass showcases which caused some problems for the builder in order to get the works hanging from the top part of the showcases.

An other problem we had with the showcases; there were lights on top and from bottom of each showcase causing reflections when taking photos. This seemed not to bother visitors. The largest works were hung on removable walls.

The feedback to the library and to builders was extremely positive. The inhabitants of Palokka were happy to get spectacular works on show. Especially two facts interest visitors: the theme of the exhibition, which

was well presented in felt works,, aroused thoughts of climate changing; the sizes of felt works were admired.

The collection of felt works will be going to another gallery in Finland in 20222, info on page 36.

Sirpa Mäntylä

Felt at Home - exhibition at Kivipankki gallery in Jämsä July 2021

Already for the 24th time we built a felt exhibition in Jämsä for the month of July. Since 2008 the home for felt exhibition has been Kivipankki gallery. Earlier the Jokivarsi school center was part of the exhibition space.

This summer the theme of the exhibition was interior decorative and these kind of works we got. The spectrum of works was small decorative items, pictures, sculptures, blankets, wall hangings, lighting fixtures, curtain and a large felt work like a gateway. Truly a versatile collection which delighted and intrigued visitors. The internationality was presented by felt works of Belgium Vrouw Wolle Academy. The covid was seen in their works slightly differently; corona obliged people to stay at home more than during normal days ja that is why part of felt makers made small felt sculptures partly due to lack of felting space. Some felt makers seized the opportunity and made a larger and more time consuming felt work.

In total 24 felt works of 20 felt makers came from Belgium to the exhibition. 21 Filtti members sent together 30 felt works.

Editor Outi Parikka was invited to open the exhibition, Tommi Tapiainen and Sami Malkki handled the jury of the Filtti works.

There are plenty of photos on Filtti webpage.

Sirpa Mäntylä

Cultural award to Filtti

For the 5th time The cultural award which carries Viljo Järvinen's name was given in the independence event organized by Jämsä city. The award is 3000€

Felt association Filtti makes long-term work

Finnish Felt association Filtti was founded 1998. The association has long-term promotion of the felt, thus preserving the intangible cultural heritage and bringing it to this day.

Since its establishment, the association has organized felt exhibitions that play a significant role in Jämsä's summer events. The association's exhibition activities are also extensive elsewhere in Finland, and Filtti has organized numerous exhibitions abroad. For its part, the association has made felt known and valued through its operations and product development work. The association is active and brings together felters, artists, craftsmen, teachers, tutors and wool producers. Filtti activates its members and others interested in felt as an organizer of felting courses and workshops, trainings and visits.

The felt is a specialty of the Jämsä region, which Filtti has highlighted as products, services and expert know-how nationally and internationally. Jämsä has the only production facilities in Europe that produce felt shoes and slippers. More than a hundred years ago, there were 7 felt companies in Jämsä. Today, there are 3 felt factories left in Finland, all in the Jämsä river valley.

Finnish felt footwear still leaves to the world from Jämsä.

INFORMATION : new business space is being renovated to a new library in Jämsä with a code JÄMSÄ FORUM LIBRARY

Jämsä library has asked Filtti to make a felt work for the wall in youngers' and children' department. We have a drawing made by an interior architect, see page 16-17. In Filtti board meeting we decided to send an information and through this find a maker for this felt work.

Info of the felt works:

- architect drawing of the work
- an acoustic work, that silences the echo in the space
- the work will have 10 different size and shape clouds, which will be placed on the wall according to the drawing
- the back wall will be painted white

- above the cloud there is an old fashion airplane
- on the bottom part of the wall there will be a semicircle sun; painted and a carpet will be on the floor in front in sunny colors also in semicircle (the measure might change)
- a white screen can be set above the sun when needed
- in the drawing you can see measurements and colors designed for the clouds
- the felt work must not be too thick, but the clouds has to stay in shape when hung

We ask felt makers who are interested in making the felt work and who have resources, skill and will to make

this, send an email by 18th December to sirpa.mantyla@filtti.fi

Enclosed to the email send a photo or photos of your earlier felt work, which shows your the skill and style..

Tell also how you have thought of making the felt work, how you have planned to hang it and your quotation.

All information received from felt makers and photos are given to the library. they will make the decision of the maker. Because library personnel have million tasks to do for the new library and move , they do not want direct contact at this stage. They ask however to get information of how the work will be made, of the hanging optionsand estimation of costs. A clear b udget they do not have or they did not give out. The work must be finished by middle of March.

More information, contact Sirpa +358 45 1304777 or sirpa.mantyla@filtti.fi

Coming exhibitions 2022

Disappearing nature gallery Järnätti Järvenpää time: February 14th to March 4th 2022

gallery is open from 9am until 6pm Mon - Fri, on weekends only if there are other events in the building
contact sirpa.mantyla@filtti.fi

Opening party Friday 11th February at 6pm

Gallery is in the lobby of the culture and congress center of Järvenpää (south Finland, 35 mins from Helsinki airport)

Invitation and poster is available early January

email if you want an invitation or poster to sirpa.mantyla@filtti.fi

Felt from head to toe in Jämsä at Kivipankki gallery time July 4th until August 7th 2022

25th annual summer exhibition

information will be seen early next year on Filtti website www.filtti.fi/members

NOTES

Filtti newsletter/ Filtti board is the editorial. Send photos and articles by email to info@filtti.fi

Membership fees/ actual member 40€ /community, company members 50€

Note. Company members will get a free advertisement in every newsletter

Further information:

- all invoices must be paid on due dates
- payment must show a reference number and the member's name
- in case we have send a reminder of unpaid invoices, we add 5 € for each reminder

Remember to send your changes in your address and email address to info@filtti.fi

Joining as a member

find a membership form on Filtti webpage www.filtti.fi/hae-jaseneksi/

resignation from the association

Information must be made in writing (email ok) before the end of the year or latest before the new

membership fee is being invoiced - normally in mid January.

Resignation is not valid if you do not pay the membership fee.