



NORDIC TEXTILE COUNCIL REPORT 2012

NTC 2012

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The report from Denmark 2012

What is going on in the textile field in Denmark, and what could have interest for members of NTA.

Artapestry

European Tapestry Forum was founded in 2001 and created by a group of tapestry weavers from Denmark and across Europe. It seeks to encourage the continuing development of woven tapestry as a viable artistic medium in Europe. Its founding aims are:

- to be a network for coordinated action, sharing of experience and training between tapestry weavers in Europe.
- to support and contribute to an on-going development and renewal of tapestry weaving in Europe.
- to assist in the development of professional national organisations for tapestry weavers to secure the visibility of the weavers and their work.

European Tapestry Forum is an organisation of professional tapestry weavers which seeks to raise the profile of tapestry as an art form - and to provide a platform for tapestry artists. ETF wants to bring tapestry weavers together for collaboration and cooperation; exchange of ideas; learning and training.

With its regular juried ARTAPESTRY exhibitions, ETF provides a showcase for work by contemporary tapestry artists, and an opportunity for their works to be exposed to a larger European audience.

The third exhibition of Artapestry is shown:

Denmark Art Centre Silkeborg Bad - May 17 – August 26, 2012
Finland Keski-Suomen Museum, Jyväskylä - January 12 - March 17, 2013
Sweden Kulturcentrum Ronneby - June 8 - August 25, 2013.
France Angers for 5 – 6 months - January 2014 until May 2014
Latvia Decorative Arts & Design Museum, Riga - June – July 2014
Artapestry 4 is planned to take place again in 2014 (www.tapestry.dk)

Printers- and Weavers guild (Stoftrykker- & Væverlauget) has changed name to Danish Textile Guild - weaving, print and embroidery (Dansk Tekstillaug – væv, tryk og broderi)

an organisation open for everybody with interest in the textile areas. The organisation travelled summer 2012 to Berlin to visit "The 8. Textile Festival in Berlin". In 2013 Dansk Tekstillaug will in September visit The International Triennial for Tapestry weaving in Lodz and textile artist in Poland. These travels are amazing for networking between members and to get in contact with the textile fields in other countries. In 2014 DT will arrange a mini textile exhibition in Copenhagen and Jutland. (www.dansk-tekstillaug.dk)

Danish Arts and Crafts Association (Danske Kunsthåndværkere)

Danske Kunsthåndværkere is the association for professional craftsmen, and it is possible for Nordic craftsmen to become a member of the association. This year Danske Kunsthåndværkere arranges an exhibition (The Biennale for Crafts and Design) in Rundetårn in Copenhagen with works of members. The association is trying to establish contact with the Nordic countries for the next biennale, to open the event and make it possible for Nordic guests to participate. (www.danskekunsthaandvaerkere.dk)

*Gina Hedegaard Nielsen, NTC member
Copenhagen - 08 02 2013*

The report from Finland 2012

General

2012 Helsinki was nominated World Design Capital by ICSID and there were remarkable investments for design field in 2012 (<http://wdchelsinki2012.fi>). Theme of the year "design exists for people" emphasised openness, continuity, collaboration and the social dimensions of design. Among hundreds of various WDC events there were also some textile arts involved (e.g. Kamppi Chapel liturgical textiles, handicraft events in Paviljonki, Tulevan perinne exhibition,...).

In generally, on my experience, textiles are more and more part of the design and art and it's not underlined or separated from other materials or processes. Likewise, textiles, textile designs and arts are created by multi-discipline artists and designers and the education on textile specially don't play that big role any more but needed textile techniques are learned from YouTube or short courses. Unfortunately the new interest to textiles didn't increase the teaching or other job opportunities for textile specialists but diminished them in stead. On the basis of the un-employment rates in-depth handicraft and design education have been stated too big compared to need and there is a plan to cut education by 2016 (Förslag på svenska:

http://www.minedu.fi/OPM/Julkaisut/2011/Ehdotus_koulutustarjonnan_tavoitteiksi_vuodelle_2016.html?lang=fi&extra_locale=sv). Also the allowances for the cultural education has been cut and employment situation is challenging.

Textile artists are using mainly the title “textile artist” but more and more they move to use title “visual artist” or simply “artist”. This is partly result of the cut downs in education in textile art field. Practically today there isn't any degree program giving emphasis on textile arts only, like it was on 80's and 90's, and newcomers using textiles as their art medium but with education in fine arts, applied arts etc, don't recognize the textile tradition as their background or artists on textile field want to move to art scene and try to avoid labeled as textiles. Eventually, there are no role models on textile field like it used to be and especially newcomers want to emphasis their design education in stead of specialization on textiles. Textile degree program at Aalto University (former Konstindustriella högskola) is totally concentrating on design and most likely the degree program will be gone by 2014 and textiles are taught as minor studies only.

On the other hand, textile art works are gradually accepted to the art exhibitions and textile art exhibition like Finnish Textile Triennial

Associations in Finland for textile artists

Textile artists TEXO rf (founded. 1956,) is a member in Ornamo rf and its members are primarily the members in Ornamo that provides the membership services even if you are not a member in TEXO. TEXO remains a place for professionals with textile interests weather they are industrial or artistic but some have chosen only the general membership in Ornamo. (http://www.finnishdesigners.fi/index.php?article_id=4356) Another member association in Ornamo, Artists O was founded 2006 among Ornamo members who wanted to emphasis their artistic approach and material based art is often used to describe the association. TEXO members working on art scene applied the membership from Artists O too.

Some artists using textiles for art works and having education on design related schools have also applied memberships from art organizations like Finnish Painters' Union or Association of Finnish Sculptors.

As there are reasonably many associations for artists using textile materials and techniques the situation is challenging for NTA. Ornamo membership fee is about 160€ and joining to TEXO or Artists O increases the fee with several tens not to mention the other associations.

Exhibitions

There have been some exhibitions for textile arts but to my knowledge there's constant need of possibilities to exhibit. The galleries in generally don't accept textile arts and there are virtually no gallery concentrating in textile arts or related. If you succeed to get the gallery it's very expensive as here artists are paying the rent (app. 3000-6000€/4weeks) and the commission if there will be selling (min 30%). Open calls for bigger exhibitions are rare and the competition is tough. Exhibitions for textile arts are organized almost only by Ornamo/TEXO and even then it's difficult to get in as curators are very often invited outside the TEXO members and they want to invite artists from other fields too. On the other hand this increases multi-discipline cooperation.

In 2012 Ornamo organized the 9. Triennial in Turku and also mini textile exhibition were organized. Ornamo members can also provide their works for sale in the annual sales exhibition.

Finland 2012 / *Raija Jokinen, NTC member*