

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Nordic Textile Art Association is a non-profit association. The purpose of the association is to be a forum for contact creation and contribute to establishing new networks and conducting meetings for Nordic textile art. We will enable physical as well as virtual meetings and create networks for Nordic textile art.



NORDIC TEXTILE MEETING IN DENMARK 2020 - ACROSS GENERATIONS. *Højer lock*

Board of Directors 2020 consists of:

Chairwomen Vibeke Lindhardt (DK)
 Vice-President Juha Laurikainen (FI)
 Secretary Åse Eriksen (N)
 Kasserer Josabet Werkmäster (S)
 Regular member Bethina Elverdam Nielsen (ISL)
 Regular member Elisabeth Brenner Remberg (S)
 Regular member Lisa Juntunen Roos (S)
 Alternate Berthe Forchhammer (DK)
 Alternate Sofia Hagström Møller (S/DK)
 Substitute Lily Erla Adamsdottir (ISL)
 Alternate Pirkko Heikkilä (FI)
 Substitute Kari Merete Paulsen (N)

Accountant 2020 has been Berit Sahlström and vara member Anna Segelman. Nomination committee: 2020 Linnea Blomgren, (S); Olga Torleifdottir, (ISL); Suppleant, Vibeke Vestby, (N)

From 5-8 March 2020, the Nordic Textile Art Association organised a Nordic textile meeting in Denmark. The event was a collaboration between NTA Nordic Textile Art and Rødning Folk High School, the headline of the meeting was: *Across Generations*.

We chose this year to meet at Rødning Folk High School, Denmark's oldest Folk High School, located in South Jutland. We wanted to make a connection between the generations, to let old and young people inspire each other, share information and discuss and exchange.

Project leader for Nordic Textile Meeting in Denmark were Vibeke Lindhardt, Sofia Hagström Møller and Berthe Forchhammer. In the project group also Gina Hedegaard Nielsen and Josabet Werkmäster.



KOLDING DESIGN SCHOOL

INGE BJØRN

ASTRID SKIBSTED

56 members, almost exactly a quarter of all NTA members, one half from Denmark and the other from Sweden, Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Germany and Scotland, was assembled. It was a great pleasure to be together for artist talks, workshops, exhibition, meetings with textile designers and artists, songs and tours of the area. We all ate and lived together, every day- and it provided an obvious opportunity to meet a lot of new people and talk to them.

Visit to Kolding Design School, Galleri Pagter and Textile Designer Grethe Sørensen

Helle Trolle as a textile designer, weaver and teacher at the school had arranged a great visit, where we had the opportunity to talk to both teachers and students who told us about their teaching and projects. Further, the trip went to Galleri Pagter, in the center of Kolding, where weaver Gudrun Pagter had generously hung up his woven pictures and told about his working methods

Then we went to the church of the free church in Vonsild, where we saw an antependium designed by Grethe Sørensen, woven at the Textile Mouse in Tillburg in the Netherlands. It was a nice detour to the visit to Grethe Sørensen's studio/workshop. In the beautiful workshop, an amazing amount of sketches and samples had been put forward for new and old projects and experiments. Grethe Sørensen generously talked about his work.

Joint exhibition at Rødning Folk High School. Anyone who wanted to participate in a joint exhibition had brought their textiles, hanging arts or free works, could hang them up in the beautiful exhibition gallery found at the school.

In Ribe Cathedral, at Tønder Museum and at Soggy Cakes

The morning song this Thursday morning was assigned to the church of the free church, which is right next to the high school. We drove by bus to Ribe Cathedral. Here Berthe Forchhammer talked about Puk Lippmann's fair shotguns and Vibeke Lindhardt about the old bishop's robes.

At Tønder museum, in the evening Elsemarie Dam-Jensen told us about the very fine South Jutland lace and the special identity-creating and national importance they have had for the area and for women's ability to support themselves.

At Klægager, Christian Lorenzen told in sounding South Jutland and English about the farm, which has been in the family's possession for four generations. Ruth Lorenzen told about the special tradition of the South Jutland coffee table and we got in the finest few cups, all different, served coffee, homemade buns and "Good advice", a special cookie with a beautifully embossed pattern, baked in a small iron, just a cake for textile nerds.

And even though we were tired, in the evening a singing evening was programmed with high school principal Mads Ryking Eriksen, who told us about folk high school singing tradition, about Grundtvig and about the Danish folk high school movement.



GRETHE SØRENSEN



NETWORKING



ON SOGGY CAKES

Conference Day March 7

The conference day began with a morning session with singing and maps about the NTA – last year's meeting in Iceland and about our new collaboration with the Estonian textile organization and Professor Aet Ollisaar.

The first speaker was fiber artist **Grethe Wittrock** (b.1964), who talked about his 3-year stay in the United States, and about being a Danish textile artist there. Grethe passed on her experiences with the American art scene and told us how she created a life with the textiles and the American colleagues and told how she became part of The Textile Museum in Washington.

The next in the series of speakers was **Ragnhild Hjalmarsdóttir Højgaard** (born 1982) who told about his large textile decoration task with the architect's firm BIG. Ragnhild already won a competition as a student at the Danish Design School. The assignment was carried out to the newly built gymnasium in the Faroe Islands.

This afternoon's program was four different workshops. **Workshop 1**, which was led by **Grethe Wittrock** had the headline: New life in weather-bitten sails. Here, in the large lovely workshop that we were provided with, we worked with small textile installations in sails, painted, glued, perforated with holes.

Workshop 2 called: Blue Hour – a workshop on blue coloring – in the middle of the day! was led by **Helle Trolle**. (b.1969) Here shibori was dyed in the textile workshop, textiles that were dyed in indigo baths.

Workshop 3 was a textile designer and weaver **Astrid Skibsted** (b. 1982) master of. The theme here was Winding Samples- collaborative colour workshop across generations. In the 1980s, we worked with yarns in countless colours and composed small winding images with colours and lines.

Workshop 4 was led by **Eva mm Engelhardt** (b.1980), textile artist: Stich tagging is an embroidery concept that combines the illegal audacity of street art and the traditions of embroidery. The madness - as she writes herself - winds alongside reality to ultimately make a united sense

The afternoon ended with a lecture by weaver and folk high school teacher **Inge Bjørn** (b.1925). Inge Bjørn has for a lifetime been a teacher of weaving, plant dyeing and spinning at Askov Folk High School, but has always simultaneously woven his tapestries. She told that she always has had dyed yarns to picture the carpets with plants. And about how she always weaves with the back up (as tapestries do) without cardboard or sketch, but in advance has a picture of her woven work inside her head and therefore always has to think the images mirrored. Inge Bjørn talked about his recent exhibitions at the Johannes Larsen Museum and about an exhibition at Galleri Tom Christoffersen in Copenhagen. The special thing here was that before this exhibition it was two very young art historians who did not know about woven images that were curators. They dyed and painted the gallery in connection with the hanging. Inge Bjørn also showed some of his early carpets from the 1950s and 60s and with them came good stories about, among other things, the 1950s and 1960s. Hannah Rygen and Paula Trock as Inge Bjørn knew. Thus enriched and moved to hear a person who for 70 years has engaged in teaching, weaving, art and plant staining, we went to the dining room where a banquet was prepared for us.

Anne Mette Larsen (b. 1962) is a weaver and has a quirky approach to life and to weaving. Her passion is- as she said - weaving, Eastern Europe and cycling and these three things she has combined in a fantastic way. She is inspired in Eastern European architecture and told about a bike ride to Moscow

Sunday with annual meeting, artist talk and goodbye and reunion

The last day at the folk high school started with Mads Rykind Eriksen who had chosen songs and talked about democracy and the importance of folk high schools as a place for education, democracy and meetings.

The annual meeting was held in good order

Cecile Bendixen, who is an architect and has written a PhD on how textile can/should be designed and placed to simultaneously absorb sound and form spaces, talks about her almost poetic tents, which are placed in landscapes, and about the work with acoustics and textiles.

Thus enriched we went from Rødding, each to her country or her city. We had listened, discussed, networked, touched and seen. And most importantly, perhaps, listened to and talked about how important it is that you have reason in your own country and your own identity so that you can face the world with an open mind – a world that is more your own.

We were incredibly lucky, the week after we met, Denmark and most of Europe closed it – everyone made it home safe, and sound and we are grateful for that.



TØNDER MUSEUM



ANNE METTE LARSEN



JOINT EXHIBITION AT RØDDING

During the year, the next annual meeting has been scheduled.

Annual meeting 2021 in Borås, Sweden. Nordic Textile Meeting in Borås 2021- Talking hands. NTA's annual meeting 2021 will be held in collaboration with the Textile Museum in Borås, Sweden, with workshops and exhibitions for members. The programme will be available both at the Textile Museum in Borås online and will follow the regulations from The Public Health Agency. The headline for the meeting is: *Talking Hands*.

Annual meeting 2022 will be held in Norway. Nordic Textile Meeting in Oslo 2022.

Members are the voice of the network

Together we contribute to the development of Nordic textile art. The number of members 2020 was 188. Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden are all represented in the association. In addition, we are lucky to have members from Estonia, Luxembourg, Germany, Romania and Scotland. The information leaflet and handshake networks have been distributed far and wide in different contexts. Communication on social media where news about textile incidents, both Nordic and international, is becoming increasingly important.

Activities for NTA members

Many of NTA's members are artists- who have a keen interest in showing their textile art to each other - and in addition to sharing knowledge and experience, and therefore the annual meeting programmes are shaped so that it is possible for new contacts and networks to emerge. Through textile events in the Nordic countries, we all contribute to spreading and contributing to new meetings and activities within the textile world.

Website

www.nordictextileart.net. The website is our virtual meeting place. On the website, our news is exposed. On our facebook page, the number of likes has increased throughout the year from 3222 to 3287 people. The difficult part is getting members to send material for their own presentations on the network page, which is an important part of making the website function as a meeting place. **NTA Gallery** is Nordic Textile Arts web-based gallery. The gallery is in development and needs to be changed.

The Board

Since 2017, the Board of Directors has had representatives from all five Nordic countries. It works despite the distance well. In 2020, the Board of Directors held 8 minutes of meetings and a number of non-recorded working meetings, but they have been fewer this year as we have not been able to meet across borders. Zoom meetings have been a substitute for the physical meetings that we usually have throughout the year. It is possible to read all the minutes on the member pages of the website. Approved by the annual meeting that the board of directors for the work of the Board of Directors and the costs associated with the board's commitment and meetings have been costed by the association. Within the framework of projects, a certain amount of work is replaced.

Nordic co-operation and Nordic textile art are at the heart of Nordic Textile Art, NTA will create a forum for conversation about textile art. In order to spread the network in the different countries, it is important that the Nordic artists have conversations and meet, just as linking up with already established networks is an important goal. In order to strengthen the network, the annual meeting is held in turn in the Nordic countries. The fact that meetings circulate between countries and that the textile conference is held in a new place every year is important for knowledge of each other's countries and ways of working. The textile conferences have changing themes and these inspiration days are important for the conversation between the association's members. Some years there is a long emphasis on lectures other years on workshops and materials.

The Corona pandemic has meant that much of the networking and promotion activities in 2020 have been dormant.

Through network support from the Nordic Cultural Point, the NTA had a common relationship in the Nordic region (from 2016 to 2018) in order to promote cooperation and contact between the Nordic countries in collaboration with TEXO, Finland. The network support allowed the NTA's Nordic Board to meet for networking. New partners such as the Estonia Textile Association are being developed and initial contacts have been made with the other Baltic states. The same with Romania, where we, through our member Anna Orban, are investigating cooperation. The corona pandemic and refusal of renewed network support has meant that many ideas have been moved and are waiting for better conditions.

Cooperation with ETN, European Textile Network

Since 2015, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg is a member of the ETN board and she was new elected to the new board of ETN Haslach 2020. Cooperation between the NTA and ETN will continue.

The Swedish Museum of Textile in Borås. During 2020 there has been ongoing contact with museum manager Ulrika Kullenberg, curator Malena Karlsson and the Textil Museum. This cooperation and discussions on activities will continue. NTA's annual meeting 2021 will be held in collaboration with the Textile Museum. **The Swedish Museum of Textile** sees itself as an obvious partner to the NTA and offers a stimulating and enticing environment with a desire to be an inspiration. The museum offers NTA information through exhibitions and access to the museum's large collection of material samples and design classics.

Economics: The basis of the economy this year was membership income, participation fees and fund funds. The membership fee 2020 was €25 for individuals and €55 for organisations. Nordic Textile Meeting in Denmark 2020 was conducted with support from Nordic Culture Point, Grosserer L.F. Foghts Fond, Lars Hiertas Minnesfond and AP Møllersfond.

Thanks to  Nordiska ministerrådet



March 2021 for Board Chairwomen *Vibeke Lindhardt*