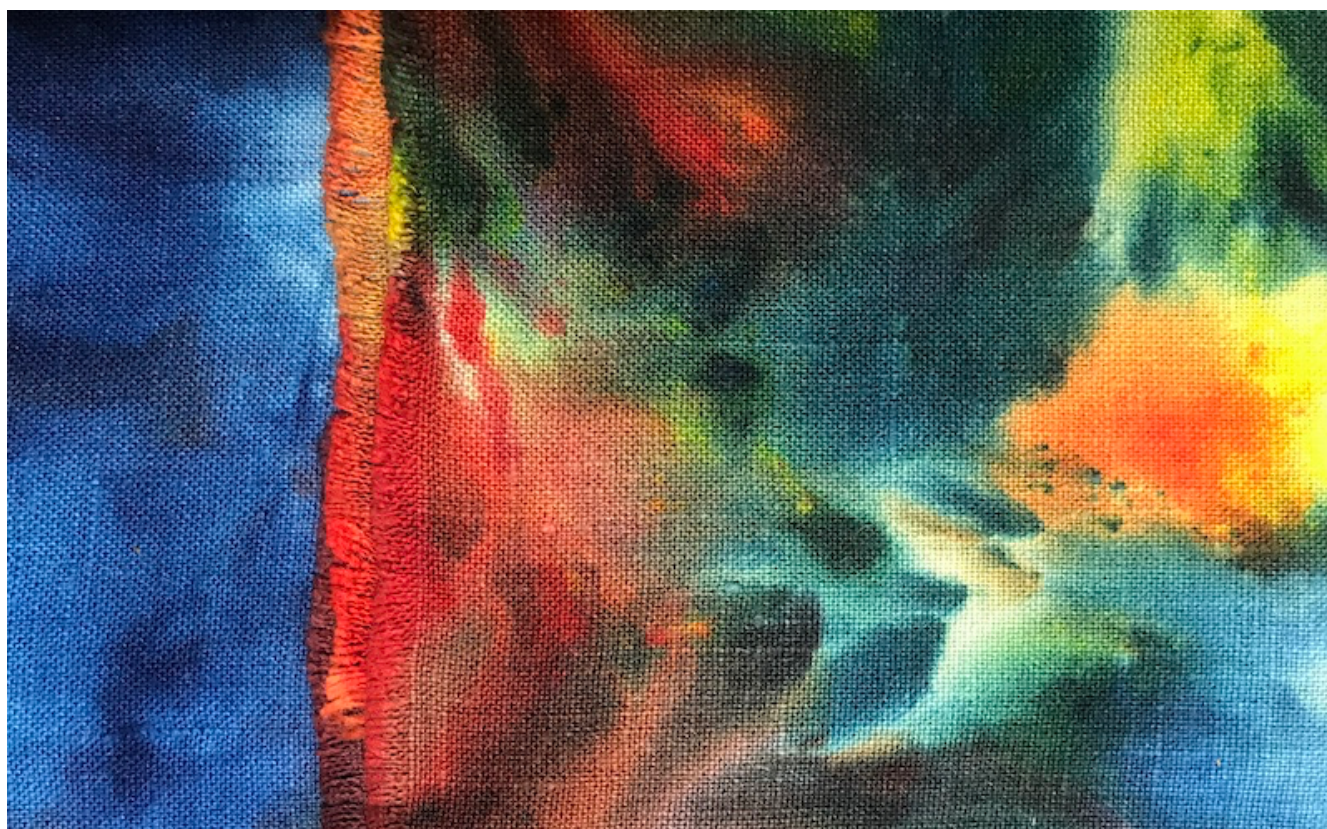


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The association Nordic Textile Art is a non-profit association. The purpose of the association is to be a forum for making contacts 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. In order to spread the network in the various countries, it is important that the Nordic artists have conversations and meet, just as connecting to already established networks is an important goal.

In order to strengthen the network, the annual meeting is held alternately in the Nordic countries. What is happening in textile art today and what has happened historically. What are the similarities and what are the differences? At our annual meetings, participants have the opportunity to meet and participate in interesting programs, such as exhibitions, workshops, lectures, visits to studios, factories and other specialist manufacturers. We call it the Nordic Textile Meeting, precisely because the meeting is the most important. In 2023, it was time for Finland to host the event, and the program was organized in close cooperation with TEXO. Nordic Textile Meeting in Tampere 2023 - Koko Kirjo/The whole spectrum. A colorful experience!



DETAIL OF THE SNOW DYED TEXTILE BY JOSABET WERKMÄSTER

Nordic Textile Art - the association and the board.

During the year, the amendment to the articles of association was adopted at the ordinary general meeting held online on March 27 and at the extraordinary general meeting in Tampere on June 11, 2023. The change was made in accordance with § 5, where the deadline for the annual meeting was changed from 31 March to 30 June. The motivation for this was to have greater flexibility for the host country to decide on dates and times that suited them.

NTA's board 2023 consists of:

Chairwoman Vibeke Lindhardt (DK)
Co-chairwoman Lily Erla Adamsdóttir (ISL)
Cashier Josabet Werkmäster (S)
Ordinary member Kari Merete Paulsen (N)
Ordinary member Maija Esko (FI)
Ordinary member Elisabeth Brenner Remberg (S)
Ordinary member Maria Johansson (S)
Substitute Berthe Forchhammer (DK)
Substitute Päivi Vaarula (FI)
Substitute Arnþrúður Ösp Karlsdóttir (ISL)
Substitute Secretary Åse Eriksen (N)
Substitute Arianna Funk (S)

Accountant: Anna Segelman (S). Election preparation: Olga Bergljót Thorleifsdóttir (ISL).

Since 2017, the board has had representatives from all five Nordic countries. It works well despite the distance. In 2023, the board held 9 meetings with minutes and a number of working meetings without minutes. Board meetings are mainly held via Zoom.

Nordic Textile Meeting in Tampere in June 8 - 11, 2023 - Koko Kirjo - The Whole Spectrum.



The Nordic Textile Meeting in Finland was a collaboration between TEXO, the Finnish association of textile artists, and Nordic Textile Art. **KOKO KIRJO - FULL SPECTRUM** consisted of a seminar with professional lectures, field trips and collaboration workshops.



Thanks to the Koko Kirjo team: Miia Poytalaakso, Maija Esko, Päivi Vaarula, Laura Isoniemi, & Juha Laurikainen. And many thanks to all 100 participants for the colorful days

Report from NTA's board: Berthe Forchhammer (1st day), Kari Merete Paulsen (2nd day) and Lilý Erla Adamsdóttir (3rd day). Read the full report on our website.

Textile conference day

Museum Center Vapriikki, Tampere. The first speaker of the day was PhD **Leena Svinhufvud**, her lecture was called "At the Roots of Color Art. Reflections on textiles, gender and intellect".

The next speaker was textile artist **Ulla Lapiolahti**, who spoke about "Nature Dyes & Pigments". She reviewed the different color methods within the subject. After this feature, it was PhD, Docent **Riikka Räisänen**'s turn to talk about "Bio Based Dyes". Her theme was part of a program at the University of Helsinki.



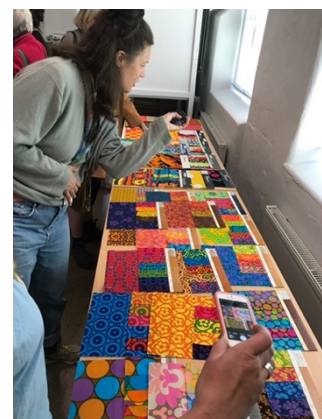
After lunch there were three lectures under the common title "Artist View". **Inka Kivola**, **Laura Isoniemi** and **Elina Helenius** talked about each of their approaches to colour. Inka Kivola showed poetic weavings in deep, melancholic colors that are first woven and then embroidered and appliquéd. Laura Isoniemi talked about "Color in me". Laura Isoniemi has taught for many years, and a dress from the exhibition was

composed of fabric samples from the teaching in the whole spectrum of colors in a beautiful symphony. Elina Helenius told about two lovely artist in residency trips to Catalonia and to Athens. Elina Helenius showed examples of inspirations, sketching, tests in materials, selection and scaling for the finished products. A privilege to get so close to the works of three artists.

The last 2 speakers of the day were Doctor of Arts **Pirjo Seddiki**, who works with trend setting at Inter Color Finland, the lecture was called "Predicting Color Trends". The last of the day was Doctoral Researcher **Noora Yau**, who talked about the future way of creating color. The theme was "Future Dyeing Methods, Iridescence". Iridescent colors that arise from wood transformed into nanofibres. Afterwards it was possible to explore the museum.

Textile excursion to Forssa

Forssa town was established around the textile industry by Swedish-born Axel Wilhelm Wahren (1814-1885) who in 1849 founded a cotton spinning mill next to the Kuhalankoski waterfall. The mill was soon followed by a weaving mill, yarn dyeing mill and Finland's first industrial fabric printing plant. In 1934, the Forssa Company founded by Wahren merged with the Finlayson textile group from Tampere. From this merger a company was formed called Finlayson-Forssa. Textile production in Forssa ended in 2009.



At Forssa Museum, NTA's meeting participants were met by museum manager Kati Kivimäki. The assembly was guided through three locations. First the pattern center which is said to be the home of Finnish printed textiles. Next, Forssa museum, where museum lecturer Kristiina Huttunen showed around the museum collection, which contains examples of early Finnish textile printmaking as well as the golden age of Finlayson Co.

Forssa Museum's history goes back to the year 1923 and the foundation of a regional museum organization Lounais-Hämeen Kotiseutu- ja Museoyhdistys. This organization began to collect, document and preserve local artifacts, stories and the local way of life. The museum was formed from these collections. The museum has also actively collected and documented local cultural heritage. Since the 1980s, the museum has been located in an old cotton warehouse in the center of the Forssa Spindværksområde.

In Forssa, Forssa Textile Week organized for the first time in August 2023. An event that will be recurring.

A short bus ride from Forssa was the printing house Rykkeri, which in 2009 took over the premises from Finlayson. A textile printing house, shop and located in the old textile weaving mill is now run here.

Workshop day, sea cruise and sauna

After two days filled with joyous events and meaningful learning, Saturday brought new adventures. Conference participants were offered a choice between four different workshops. Each workshop gave an insight into a textile technique.



The workshops were:

- **Himmeli / Straw crown.**

The instructor on the course was Titta Eräniitty. Participants learned about the history of Himmeli and practiced the technique of making it.

- **Eco Print – Botanical patterns.**

The instructor on the course was Taina Keskinen. Participants created their own botanical pattern after learning about the technique of eco-printing. The technique is a contact dyeing method, where the plants are placed directly on the material and their color, and where the shape and drawing are transferred using heat.

- **Tufted surface.**

The instructor on the course was Anna Puolakka. Participants made a mini-textile of their own design using a tufting needle, a small hand tool. The approach to this technique was to paint with yarn.

- **Paper yarn.**

Teacher: Marja Liisa Peltola. The participants made a mini-textile of their own design from paper yarn. The course was material-based and paper yarn was the core. The material possibilities were examined on an individual basis, and the participants were set free to approach the material on their own terms.

After a day of new learning, dinner was enjoyed on a lake and the day ended with a sauna by Lake Pyhäjärvi.



Nordic cooperation and Nordic textile art are the core of Nordic Textile Art

NTA will create a forum for conversation about textile art. In order to spread the network in the various countries, it is important that the Nordic artists have conversations and meet, just as connecting to already established networks is an important goal. In order to strengthen the network, the annual meeting is held alternately in the Nordic countries. The fact that the meetings circulate between the countries and that the textile conference is held in a new place every year is important for the 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 lot of emphasis on lectures, other years on workshops and materials.

Annual meeting 2024. During the year, the upcoming annual meeting is planned. A collaboration between Textílfélagið, Icelandic Textile Association and NTA was initiated to organize the Nordic Textile Meeting in the North of Iceland 2024 – Material and Methods. With the statute change, where the last day of the annual meeting has been changed, the team in Iceland chose to place the annual meeting in June 2024. In order to find funding for the program in Iceland, the Icelandic Textile Association has been responsible for the larger project applications.

The 2025 annual meeting will take place in Denmark. The plan is for the meeting to take place in May in Jutland.

The members are the voice in the network

Together we contribute to the development of Nordic textile art. The number of members in 2022 was 160. Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden are all represented in the association. Some members stay out of the year, some go in and out and attend with the year they want to attend an annual meeting. The members also come from other countries such as Estonia, Latvia, Germany, Scotland, England, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the USA. The information leaflet and hand-printed nets have been distributed far and wide in various contexts. Communication on social media, where news about textile incidents, both Nordic and international, is gaining more and more importance.

Activities for NTA's members.

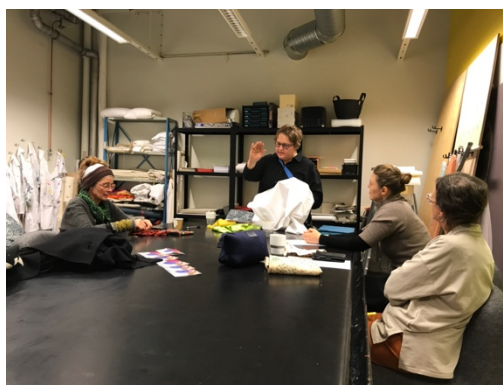
Many of NTA's members are artists who have a great interest in showing their textile art to each other - and also in sharing knowledge and experience, and therefore the annual meeting programs are shaped in such a way that it is possible, so that new contacts and networks can emerge. Via textile events in the Nordic countries, we all contribute to spread and participate in new meetings and activities within the textile world.

- Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Borås 16-18. November 2023



In November, the members were invited to participate in the Textile Talk/Talk Textile workshop at the Textile Museum in Borås. Share your textile experiences and your textile thoughts. – Textile Talk/Talk Textile!

Everyone was encouraged to bring their favorite tools, their favorite materials and a personal textile memory (like a story or an object). To begin with, the participants were inspired by the Textile Museum's fantastic collections, after which it was time for practical work in the studio. The starting point for the workshop was process, sketch and the manual labor that brings us forward both for our own projects and new joint collaborations. Responsible for the workshop were: (NTA) Elisabeth Brenner Remberg and Josabet Werkmäster together with (The Swedish Museum in Textile) Malena Karlsson.



The program also included a tour of the exhibitions at the Textile Museum and a visit to the Abesita Art Museum and the exhibition there with Anni Johansson, this year's winner of the Nordic Award in Textiles. The food, the meeting and the meals together were an important part that found space in the days together, which created wonderful opportunities for socializing, creative thoughts and inspiration.



The workshop Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Borås was part of the project Nordic Textile Art – Advanced Dialogue supported by Nordisk Kulturkontakt.

Long term Network funding from Nordic Culture Point.

NORDIC TEXTILE ART - ADVANCED DIALOGUE granted for the project period 17/5 - 2022 - 31/12 2024. NTA's project partners: Eesti Tekstiilikunstistike liit, The Finnish Association of Textile Artists TEXO, Vilnius Academy of Arts, Kaunas Faculty, Textile Artists Guild of Lithuania, Textile Museum in Borås. Project managers: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner and Maria Johansson.

The Baltic countries and the Nordic countries have long shown interest in each other's textile art, handicrafts, traditions and forms of expression. We want our project to generate both Nordic and international textile networks that grow and expand.

Meeting in real life and being creative together has a big impact on future relationships and collaborations. The board's task is to strengthen Nordic and Baltic cohesion in order to promote cooperation and lasting contacts. Digital meetings are excellent, but physical meetings to create better contacts and new developing ideas, a far more student-friendly way of exchanging experiences and culture.

What happens when the habit is broken and the obvious is erased? When we challenge our relationship to the material and place it in new contexts? The aim of the project is to deepen contacts and collaboration between artists and organizations for textile arts in each Nordic country and to create a mobility with new forums for textile arts where the Baltic countries are included in our textile network.



Textile Talk/Talk Textile – Time-lapse - textile tour and meeting in Estonia 14 - 18 August 2023.

In the project, we have continued our joint workshop with the title: Textile Talk/ Talk Textile. In 2023, the trip went to Estonia with stops in Tallinn Viljandi, Heimtali, Põltsamaa, Äksi, Tartu and Esna. We lived together in the countryside in Männiku Metsatalu. The goal was to meet and gather through artistic practice to gain visibility and increased knowledge of the other countries' work and build networks. Networking and development work with an artistic workshop is a good and rewarding form.

The participants were Kadi Pajupuu EE, Aet Ollisaar EE, Sigrid Huik EE, Vibeke Lindhardt DK, Lily Erla Adamsdottir IS, Josabet Werkmäster SE, Åse Eriksen NO, Maija Esko IS, Elisabeth Brenner SE, Maria Johansson SE, Kari Merete Paulsen NO, Arnþrúður Ösp Karlsdóttir IS, Päivi Vaarula FI, Jana Vyborna-Turunen FI, Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė LT, Jolanta Smitiene, LT.



Collaboration with ETN, European Textile Network.

Since 2015, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg has been a member of ETN's board and she will remain on the board in 2023. Nordic Textile Art is a member of the European Textile Network. In March 2023, the 20th ETN conference was held in Łódź, Poland. The theme was Codes – stories in Textiles. Maija Esko and Josabet Werkmäster represented NTA and under the program item Network Sessions they gave a presentation on Nordic Textile Art and our annual Nordic meetings. There was a great response and interest. At the same time, the 17th International Triennial of Tapestry was shown at the Textile Museum in Łódź.



Collaboration with the Textile Museum in Borås

NTA has close contact with the textile museum. The Textile Museum in Borås is an obvious collaboration partner for NTA, which offers generous collaborations and accessibility to premises and archives. The textile museum is a member of the NTA.

Homepage.

The website is our virtual meeting place. Our news is exposed on the website. On our Instagram page and Facebook page, the number of likes has increased throughout the year. Work on a new website has begun in 2023. nordictextileart.net/

Economy

The basis for the economy this year was membership income and fund funds. The 2023 membership fee was €30 for individuals and €60 for organisations. A significant change is that Kulturkontakt Nord and Nordisk Kulturfond, which were previously the main source of funding, no longer grant grants to our events of the Nordic Textile Meeting. The two foundations believe that it is part of our regular activities that they only grant grants to projects. The application for an operating subsidy has been submitted to the State Council for Culture, but there we are rejected on the grounds that the subsidy is given for activities that are mainly of national interest. The Nordic Textile Meeting in Tampere was carried out in collaboration with TEXO, which had the main responsibility for the finances with funding from project support and participant income. NTA was granted SEK 30,000 from the Estrid Ericson Foundation. NTA has long-term network support from Nordic Culture Point for the project Nordic Textile Art - Advanced Dialogue for the period 2022-2024. In 2023, the National Council for Culture has granted SEK 50,000 within the project.

Texts and photos by Vibeke Lindhardt, Josabet Werkmäster, Berthe Forchhammer, Kari Merete Paulsen, og Lilj Erla Adamsdóttir

On behalf of NTA's board of directors

Vibeke Lindhardt

