

17/5 2025

– Rapport från ett projekt med uppföljning av nätverksaktiviteter och tidsplan, jnr 26947

## NORDIC TEXTILE ART - ADVANCED DIALOGUE

Long term Network funding, Nordic Culture Point, 17/5 - 2022 - 31/12 2024



NORDIC TEXTILE ART + ESTONIAN TEXTILE ASSOCIATION + TEXO + THE TEXTILE ARTISTS' GUILD, ESTONIA 2023. TEXTILE TALK/TALK TEXTILE

*NORDIC TEXTILE ART - ADVANCED DIALOGUE - 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 art where the Baltic countries are included in our textile network*

### **Textile art in the Nordic countries - the conversation continues.**

Long-term network support (2015 – 2018) gave us the opportunity to strengthen the Nordic collaboration that we have been striving for from the start in our association and our network. To meet over the web and in social media is evolving and enriching, but the most important experience is to really meet face to face. Over time, being able to create lasting relationships, to get together in our profession where the personal meeting also gets room, creates a basis for continued collaboration and development. During the pandemic, we have even more realized the importance of meeting in real life.

**The purpose** of the network collaboration was both development of competencies and development of the textile art field. The goal was to create a Nordic platform where new interpretation, innovation and renewal of the textile art is given room.

## Cooperation and networking partners.

Nordic Textile Art [www.nordictextileart.net](http://www.nordictextileart.net),

TEXO <https://tekstiilitaiteilijattexo.fi/>

Eesti Tekstiilikunstnike liit <https://www.tekstiilikunst.ee/et>

The Textile Artists' Guild, <http://www.galerijabalta.lt/>

VAA KF <https://vda.lt/en/faculty-of-kaunas>,

Galerija Balta <https://galerijabalta.lt/en/>

Textilmuseet i Borås. [textilmuseet.se/](http://textilmuseet.se/),

European Textile Network [etn-net.org](http://etn-net.org).

## Project Team, Nordic Textile Art.

Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg and Maria Johansson

## Textile Talk/Talk Textile.

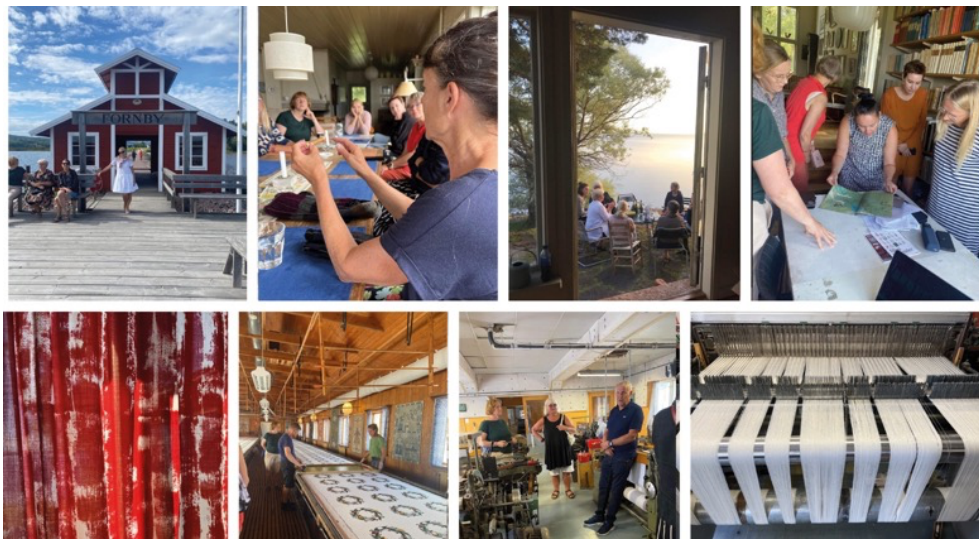
The main activities in the project have been the workshops Textile Talk/Talk Textile. It was a clear experience for all participants - to meet is of great importance. Textile artists and members of Nordic Textile Art, TEXO, Eesti Tekstiilikunstistike liit and from Textile Artists' Guild of Lithuania met in three textile workshops for increased knowledge, outlook and network. The program for the days included textile tours and meetings with current local culture. Sharing time, culture, thoughts, and impressions together was rich and meaningful. Especially now in times of fear and a war so close.

- 2022 part 1. Textile Workshop in Rättvik, Sweden, Textile Talk/Talk Textile. Practical creativity breeds new ideas.
- 2023 part 2. Textile Workshop in Estonia, Textile Talk/Talk Textile. Time-lapse.
- 2024 part 3. Textile Workshop and exhibition in Lithuania, Textile Talk/Talk Textile. Network for peace.

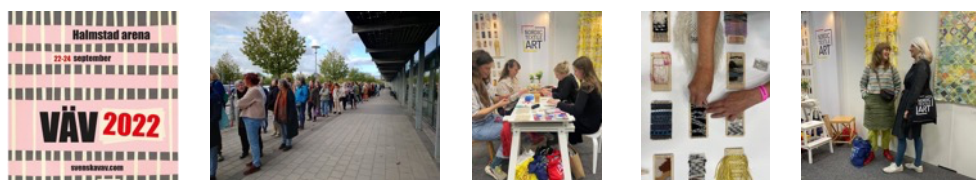
## Networking activities and time schedule.

- 17/5 2022 Project starts - initial discussions.  
Eesti Tekstiilikunstnike liit Kadi Pajupuu,  
TEXO Miia Pöytälaakso  
Lithuania Monika Žaltauskaitė, VAA KF Head of Textile Department.  
NTA: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg, Maria Johansson.
- 9 – 12/6 2022 Nordic Textile Meeting in Oslo – *Gather up the loose ends*  
The meeting was open to anyone interested in Nordic textile art with a program combining a textile conference, exhibitions and networking. Interesting speaks, among them Britta Marakatt - Labba talking about her textile artworks. 60 participants from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, England, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany and Spain participated. The board of NTA meets to discuss and set up networking strategies.
- 11/8 2022 Networking meeting, project team.
- 25 – 29/8 2022 **Textile Workshop in Rättvik, Sweden, Textile Talk/Talk Textile.**  
*Practical creativity breeds new ideas.* Textile artists and members of EteKL, TEXO, NTA and from Kaunas in Lithuania meet in a textile workshop in Sweden for increased knowledge, outlook and network. The program for the days includes textile tours and meetings with current local culture.

Participants EteKL: Aet Ollisaar, Sigrid Huik, TEXO: Miia Pöytälaakso, Laura Isoniemi, Lithuania Jolanta Šmitienė, Gertrūda Rumzytė. NTA board: Sweden: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg, Maria Johansson. Finland: Päivi Vaarula, Maija Esko, Denmark: Vibeke Lindhardt, Berthe Forchhammer. Josabet Werkmäster was in charge of the workshop and project in Rättvik.



22 – 24/9 2022 VÄV 2022. Participation in the weaving fair in Halmstad. At VÄV 2022, our goal was for Nordic Textile Art to be visible and present the association's activities and the work of creating a Nordic network for textile art. A goal that was realized with great response. New meetings and contacts arose.



- 7/12 2022 Networking meeting, project team.
- 14/12 2022 Networking meeting for expanded collaboration. Planning of the workshop Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Borås 2023. Textilmuseet: Ulrika Kullenberg, Malena Karlsson. NTA: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg.
- 23/1 2023 Nordic Culture point, Networking meeting in Tallin.
- 13/2 2023 Networking meeting for expanded collaboration. Discuss how we proceed with the planned workshop in Heimtali, Estonia: Textile Talk/Talk Textile. Eesti Tekstiilikunstistike liit Kadi Pajupuu, Aet Ollisaar, Sigrid Huik  
TEXO Miia Pöytälaakso,  
Lithuania Monika Žaltauskaitė, Jolanta Šmitienė  
NTA Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg, Maria Johansson.
- 2-4/3 2023 The 20th European Textile Network conference in Łódź, Poland. *Codes – stories in Textiles*. Maija Esko and Josabet Werkmäster represented NTA and at the Network Sessions they gave a presentation of Nordic Textile Art and the project.



8 -11/6 2023

# Nordic Textile Meeting in Tampere 2023 - *Koko Kirjo/The whole spectrum*.

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? The Nordic Textile Meeting in Tampere was a collaboration between TEXO, the Finnish association of textile artists, and Nordic Textile Art. The board of NTA and TEXO meets to discuss and set up networking strategies.



14 -18/8 2023

# **Textile Talk/Talk Textile – Time-lapse - textile tour and meeting in Estonia.** 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.



Networking and development work with an artistic workshop is a good and rewarding form. Meeting in real life and being creative together has a big impact on future relationships and collaborations. The participants were Kadi Pajupuu EE, Aet Ollisaar EE, Sigrid Huik EE, Marilyn Piirsalu EE, Vibeke Lindhardt DK, Lily Erla Adamsdottir IS, Josabet Werkmäster SE, Åse Eriksen NO, Maija Esko FI, Elisabeth Brenner SE, Maria Johansson SE, Arnþrúður Ösp Karlsdóttir IS, Päivi Vaarula FI, Jana Vyborna-Turunen Fi, Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė LT, Jolanta Smitiene. LT.



16-18/11 2023 **Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Borås.** The members of NTA were invited to participate in the Textile Talk/Talk Textile workshop at the The Swedish Museum in Textile in Borås. *Share your textile experiences and your textile thoughts. – Textile Talk/Talk Textile!* 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. The participants came from Sweden and Finland. Team leaders for the workshop were: (NTA) Elisabeth Brenner Remberg and Josabet Werkmäster together with (The Swedish Museum in Textile) Malena Karlsson.



27/11 2023 Networking meeting evaluation and launch of a picture-book of the summer meeting in Estonia. <https://tekstiilikunst.ee/suvekursused>

9/2 2024 Networking meeting for expanded collaboration. Discuss how we proceed with the planned workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania: Textile Talk/Talk Textile. Lithuania: Monika Žaltauskaitė, Grašienė, Gertruda Rumzyte  
Eesti Tekstiilikunstnike Aet Ollisaar, Heleri Alexandra Sits  
TEXO Jaana Woll, NTA: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg.

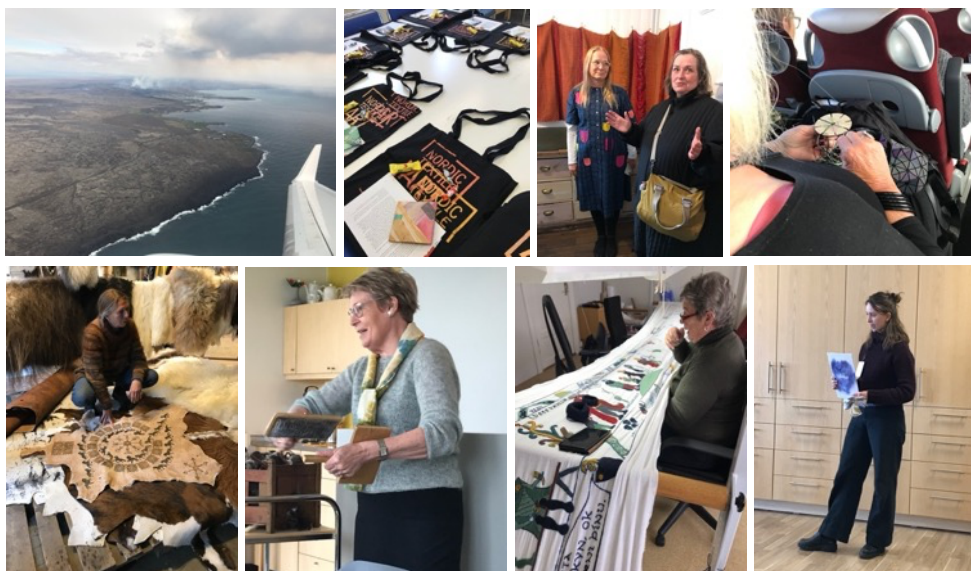
15/3 2024 NTA new website is launched. [www.nordictextileart.net](http://www.nordictextileart.net). The web company Duva were hired for creating the new site.

20/3 2024 NTA board meeting. Detail plans for the Nordic Textile Meeting in the North of Iceland 2024 - *Materials and Methods*. This year it is in collaboration with the Icelandic Textile Association, and it is set in the picturesque landscape of Northern Iceland from June 5th to June 8th, 2024.



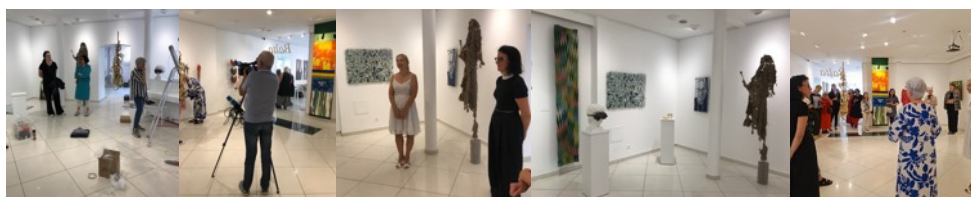
12/4 2024 Networking meeting. Detail plans for Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Kaunas. Lithuania: Monika Žaltauskaitė, Gertrūda Rumzytė. NTA: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg. Kaunas 5-9 augusti 2024. Pop up exhibition at Gallery Balta, textile tour to Rumšiškės, Makniūnai. Workshops “Lithuanian Sashes – from Tradition to Innovation”, “Talk with Textile -Talk with Nature”.

4 -8/6 2024 Nordic Textile Meeting in Iceland 2024 - *Materials and methods*. To strengthen the network, the annual meeting is held alternately in the Nordic countries. The meeting 2024 was held in northern Iceland at Leifshús in Eyjafjörður and in Blöndós. The theme of the conference was materials and methods. The artistic idea was to illuminate themes from different aspects through lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and educational visits. In total, 50 members from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Scotland, Germany, and the Orkney Islands attended. The Nordic Textile Meeting in Iceland was a collaboration between Icelandic Textile Association and Nordic Textile Art. The board of NTA meets to discuss and set up networking strategies.

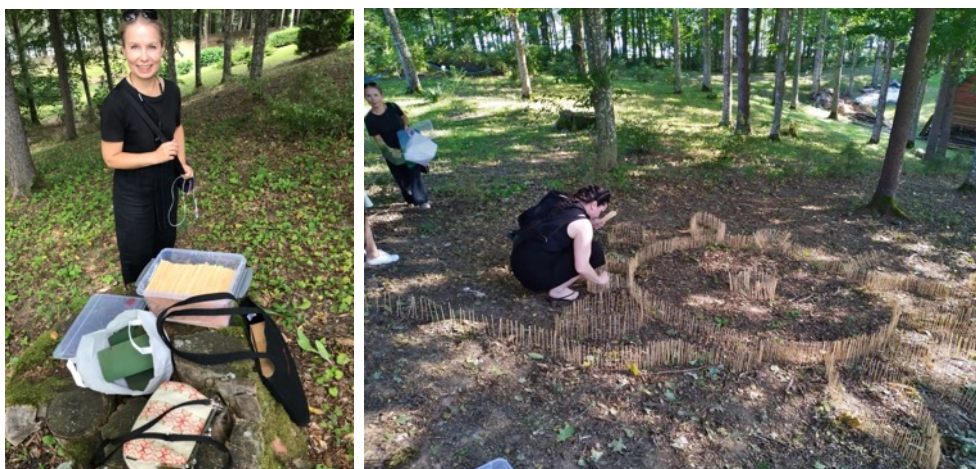


17/6 2024 Networking meeting. Detail plans for Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Kaunas. Attending: Monika Žaltauskaitė, Grašienė, Josabet Werkmäster, Maria Johansson, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg, part of the meeting Jolanta Šmitienė. A brief sum up of the program by Gertrūda.

5 – 11/8 2024. **Textile Talk/Talk Textile - exhibition, textile tour and meeting in Lithuania.** *Network for peace* Part III. Now it was time for the last workshop in the series of three. This time in collaboration with the textile organizations in Kaunas. The program of the workshop days consisted of a pop-up exhibition at Gallery Balta in Kaunas, study visits and a textile tour of the Lithuanian countryside, workshops and artist meetings.



All participants brought their art and the exhibition at Galley Balta was curated together and hung on site during the day with an opening in the evening. INT-TV made a report. Greta Kardi, made the land art based workshop “Talk with Textile – Talk with Nature”.



Participants in the workshop and the exhibition: Lithuania Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė, Jolanta Šmitienė, Renata Laurinavičiūtė, Emilei Šmidtaitei, Eesti Tekstiilikunstnike liit Aet Ollisaar, Heleri Alexandra Sits, TEXO Reika Vesala, Nordic Textile Art Sweden: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg, Maria Johansson. Finland: Päivi Vaarula, Denmark: Vibeke Lindhardt, Norway: Åse Eriksen, Kari Merete Paulasen. In the exhibition also Greta Kardišūtė, Gertrūda Rumzytė, Lina Jonikė and Ineta Ignatavičiūtė.



- 15 – 18/8 2024 Forssa Textile Week. Nordic Textile Art were invited to be a collaboration partner and to be a speaker in a panel discussion. The theme country for the year 2024 event was Sweden. Forssa and the Finnish printed textile heritage share a common story with Swedish neighbours. Josabet Werkmäster was given the task of suggesting designers regarding an exhibition or pop-up shop. The four-day event contains talks, exhibitions and pop-up sales. The idea is to provide the audience with a possibility to learn about sustainable textile design and to buy high-quality products. Collaboration partners were also TEXO, Aalto University, The Swedish Museum in Textile and Pattern from Agency.
- 17/9 2024 NTA board meeting, evaluation of the summer meeting in Lithuania.
- 27/11 2024 Networking meeting, follow-up the project.
- 31/3 2025 Networking meeting and closing the project. Reflection, evaluation, summary. The project team leaders Josabet Werkmäster, Maria Johansson and Elisabeth Brenner Remberg meet in Malmö, happy about the experiences and the strong and important network that has been built.

## **More about the workshops and how activities contributed to innovation within network's area of activities.**

The location for the workshop 2022 was Målargården in Rättvik, a family house with large areas, and cultural values from both the present and the past. Organizers for the days: Josabet Werkmäster, Elisabeth Brenner Remberg and Maria Johansson.

"What happens when you bring your conversation piece to Rättvik" We all had a short presentation during the stay as a part of talk textile/textile talk theme.

We did the cooking and cleaning together and the dinner days shared by Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

On the program: -Textile tour to give input of the local and Swedish craft signature hot spots: Jobs handtryck and Insjöns Väveri. -Workshop Textile talk/talk textile.

Gathering thoughts, ideas, and expectations. - A guided tour at the folk museum "Gammelgården" to give us the historical references of our theme and the guide Raine Mickels gave us the perspectives.

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. Organizers for the days: Kadi Pajupuu and Aet Ollisaar.

On the program: -Tours to the modern textile factory Paragon Sleep and to Äksi historical wool mill. At Heimtali Museum we met the legendary textile artist Anu Raud.

-Visits to studios and exhibitions of local artists. -Every participant had a short presentation of 3 textiles from 3 different decades that are significant for the speaker or to the textile culture of her country. -Kadi Pajupuu introduced MultiWeave technique in a workshop. -Textile excursion at Estonian National Museum. Exhibition of handprinted souvenir-scarves from 70-s to 80-s.

In August 2024, it was time for part 3. Sharing time, culture, thoughts and impressions together was rich and meaningful. Important to create network for peace in times of fear and a war so close. Organizers for the days: Monika Žaltauskaitė Grašienė and Jolanta Smitiene.

More on the program: Exhibition at Gallery Balta - Visiting Lithuanian artist association gallery in Kaunas. - Textile tour to Rumšiškės, visiting Ethnography Museum of Lithuania, tour to the countryside, Makniūnai village, Alytus district. Also, to Marcinkonys visit the artist run "Verpėjos". - Workshop "Talk with Textile -Talk with Nature" with Greta Kardi. Find a relationship with nature, talk to nature through textiles and talk to nature through textiles.

## **Textile networking - innovation and development for the textile arts.**

### **Part one Sweden,**

Målargården in Rättvik. A family house with large areas, artist studio, inspiring environment, and cultural values from both the present and the past. Ceramic, original sketches of art assignments and cultural values surround the visitor or guest. A unique venue that inspired our wide spread of age group, young master students to senior textile artists, and countries, to be comfortable. Womanhood synergy became clear when the workshop of group dynamic and meet and greet evolved to singing together, country specific lyrics. Målargården have a unique collection of folk costumes from the 17th century, and they were also demonstrated and worn during the introduction of this network workshop.

Later when visiting Estonia, the Swedish impressions were that national historical traditional textile slöjd and textile craft are highly valued aesthetics in both Estonia and Lithuania, connected to identity and value for a country that had been war-torn and occupied. When visiting both Anu



Rauds House (artist home and gallery) and Estonian National Gallery where scarves from the Sing and Dance festival were declared as symbols of secret national colours and messages.

During a difficult time with undertones of war and ongoing uncertainties, establishing network mobility around the Baltic Sea, is a force in itself. The goal was to stimulate the textile art network, create textile talks, contributing to lasting connections between the Baltic Sea countries.

Looking back, networking around textiles strengthens the female quality and empowerment, respect, safety, and shared humanity. This collaboration partner contributed to a result in reassuring group synergy and advanced textile dialogue that were identified in collaborative spirits of the network intentions. It strengthened the relations through textile culture as activator, and peaceful bonds were created, when equality and humanitarian values were addressed.

**Part two Estonia**, Timelapse tour. Eesti Tekstiilikunstnike liit, was the organiser of the workshop and the tour in Estonia.

We traveled through; Tallinn-Viljandi-Heimtali-Põltsamaa-Äksi-Tartu-Esna. It gave a geographic view of the textile culture of this Baltic country.

The collaboration between the Estonian textile organisation and Nordic Textile Art led to an online publication. It came clear during this tour that books and artbook printing possibilities are strongly encouraged and book printing possibilities are strong in Estonia and Lithuania. The written has a history of being erased by war power. Cultural heritage of now- like our-*Textile talk art book*, therefore have a possibility to be created and exist.

**Part three Kaunas**, Lithuania Gallery Balta- In Kaunas the participants of the textile talk-advanced dialogue performed an exhibition and reached out to the community of Kaunas and [Lithuanian TV](#) was also present, interviewing Josabet Werkmäster and Elisabeth Brenner Remberg. The exhibition is themed around sharing tender memories that evoke the deepest emotions.

Gallery Balta founded by Jolanta Šmitienė gave us a unique opportunity to showcase our work in such a setting that felt both humbling and empowering. The feedback was especially inspiring, as it reminded us of the universal language of art that transcends borders.

This platform of Gallery Balta both stimulated heartfelt impressions through the story of Jolanta Šmitienė, her mother was imprisoned and her cross of belief embroidered with her hair in the prison cell during World War two.

Maria Johansson NTA Sweden, exhibited textile weave sculptures of weave techniques learnt through this expanded network collaboration. One weave of a multi weave, on a loom crafted by herself. Maria Johansson learnt the technique through macrame rope in a workshop with Kadi Pajupuu of the Estonian partner. Kadi is the inventor of this technique of weaving and has crafted the original loom. This aesthetic of exhibiting Maria has extended through an exhibition in Stockholm during Stockholm Craft week autumn 2024 at Konstantverkscentrum.

A lookbook about [Textile Talk/Talk Textile in Lithuania](#) was produced with help of Kadi Pajupuu.



## **Textile Talk/ Talk Textile generates and creates new dialogues and spreads knowledge.**

Network and development work with an artistic workshop is a good and rewarding form. Conversations arise and new contacts are made, which in turn give rise to meeting in new contexts. Interest in what is happening within textile art in the Nordic and Baltic countries has grown. Thanks to our activities, the contacts have spread both locally, nationally and internationally. Several participants in the project also teach in the textile field, passing on their knowledge to their students. New collaboration partners and new exhibitions have also emerged. The participants have spread information in their organizations about various artist residency and other opportunities that are available within the network's area.

### **New contacts, new collaborations.**

The project's networking activities have branched out into a number of new collaborations and new contacts. Above all, this has resulted in the creation of new platforms for knowledge exchange and international collaborations on a professional level.

### **Textile art in the Nordic and Baltic countries - the conversation continues.**

Through long-term network funding we have been given the opportunity to strengthen the Nordic and Baltic collaboration that we have striven in our association and our network. We feel confirmed that the work we are doing is right.

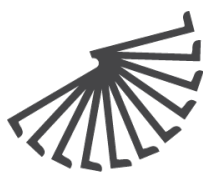
To be able to create lasting relationships over time, to meet in our profession where personal contact is also given space, creates a basis for continued cooperation and development. An important experience is that things take time and that the effect of a project can show results in future unforeseen events. Our international network has grown and continues spread. One experience is that just as we in the Nordic and Baltic countries are interested in what is happening in other countries, there is also a great interest from many parts of the world in what is happening with us and to be part of our network.

We feel that we now have a strong network, a network to build on.



## Voices from participants in the project.

- *It is so important to have these meetings and get a compact view of other artists' work and to the way of thinking. When you have intensive time together, the time is spent in the best possible way.*
- *The impressions gave me a great creative power and meeting with colleagues gave energy for a long time. Just talking to like-minded colleagues is very inspiring. It was very interesting to see the working process even though I have seen it before. I have worked in printing many years ago.*
- *For me as an artist the network is important because I can get to know artists from different countries and see how they work and think. It is important to meet people with a similar mindset and the same affection- love for textiles. For my organization it is important that the cooperation is across borders. The network gives an opportunity to introduce artworks and to see the works of artists from different countries. Direct contact gives an opportunity to understand and see.*
- *I am a Professional textile designer; nowadays I work as a one person team, making textile art. To be able to spend days in a inspiring environment together with like-minded people gives us all a lot, to spend days together with professional textile artists from other countries, with such different experiences is like ring on the water. It makes you look upon your own work in new directions, and it enlarges your network in a very positive way. Gives you possibilities to travel and study and make plans for future exhibitions in foreign countries.*
- *The experience has reinforced our desire to continue exploring the relationship between tradition and modernity in our work. We are eager to incorporate new textures, colors, and techniques inspired by what we saw in Lithuania. The time we spent with the local artists and the unique cultural atmosphere of the places we visited have undoubtedly shaped our thinking and will influence our future projects.*
- *Nordic textile art is not significantly different from Estonian textile art. Every artist is special, and that's why it's important to establish contacts across national borders.*
- *In Nordic countries we have so many similarities and it is difficult to recognize them. We have many funding possibilities and textiles are getting closer to the visual art scene, borders between art forms are getting blurrier, as they should be.*



**Nordic-Baltic  
Mobility  
Programme  
for Culture**

**SWEDISH  
ARTS COUNCIL**

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*Estrid Ericsons stiftelse,*

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*Tack till*

**TEXO**

**Balta**  
GALERIJA

**EteKL**  
eesti tekstiilkunstnike liit