

Garden of Eden

Textile Art at Neuhaus Castle - 100 works from 34 nations

18.07.-04.08.2019
St. Martin am Mühlkreis, Austria

INTRODUCTION

A Garden of Eden is a place of longing - a place where people live in harmony with nature, cautiously using existing resources and living peacefully. It is a utopia, a garden full of lush plants, sweet fruits and exotic animals that provide food in abundance. Such a paradise nourishes our elemental desire for harmonious coexistence in the community while at the same time embodying the principle of exclusion. The notion contains a longing for something that is ever valid as well as the experience of transience and fragility of life.

The idea of the garden in Eden is thousands of years old and finds expression in various forms of human culture in ever new variants. Even textiles were and are still important carriers of this complex topic. As an inspiration, the motto of the Garden of Eden offers material for an exhibition of a special kind:

In the course of the summer symposium TEXTILE KULTUR HASLACH and the concurrent ETN (European Textile Network) Conference, tenders for an international group exhibition on this topic were invited, which will show the works of contemporary textile artists. A total of 452 submissions were received, from which a panel of experts selected the best works.

The jury consisted of the following persons:

Beatrijs Sterk (NL/DE), founder of ETN and longtime editor of the *textilforum* magazine,

Paola Re (IT), curator and organizer of the *Miniartextil* in Como, Italy,

Marga Persson (SE/AT), tapestry artist and longtime director of the department of textile studies at *Kunstuniversität Linz*,

Christina Leitner and Andreas Selzer (AT), management team of the *Textile Center Haslach*, curators and organizers of the ETN Conference in July 2019 in Haslach.

The selected works were very different in terms of the techniques and materials used and dealt with the "Garden of Eden" in very different ways, resulting in a diverse view of the subject. In addition to the juried works, some well-known artists were personally invited to participate in the exhibition. The exhibition will open up a broad overview of current trends in the field of contemporary textile art and will present a total of 100 works by artists from 34 nations.

See images of the exhibition: https://www.gardenofeden2019.org/en/details_photo_gallery/exhibition-garden-of-eden-neuhaus-castle-17-july-4-august



*Series "Apple tree – 3-dimensional explorations"
by Barbara Jansen*

Technique: Microscopic Photography + Digital Printing, 3D Printing

Material: Paper, Acrylic: Vero White, mounted on metal

Size: 49,5x24,5x3,5cm

Year: 2017-2018

I am dreaming since a long time, to observe nature from "within". I have an interest in observing how nature is building structure and form, and how the internal cell construction of plants, create their overall form. I have been searching for different ways of documenting and mapping this inter-relationship as a designer and artist as an inspiration for new forms of textile expressions. Searching for new sustainable design approaches, which build on the strategy to base future design on form, growth and organizing principles of nature in order to reach long-time sustainability.

These objects are an initial exploration of turning microscopic photography into 3-dimensional objects. Starting point of investigation has been microscopic photography of plant cell structures. The plant samples, which have been studied are 3-dimensional, even they are extremely fine (8-15 μ m). Taking images of plant structures at the microscope turns a 3-dimensional object, into a 2-dimensional image. So how to turn a 2-dimensional image back into 3D? This is an observation and form study from 2D to 3D. Explored through 3D printing.

Microscopes accessed at Biofilia and Chemarts Laboratories at Aalto University, Finland. Objects created with Object Connex 350 3D printer at Aalto University, Department of Design, Finland.



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Photography: Sigi Tomaschko, Anke Gerlach