

SPANISH TEXTILE AUTUMN



Below: Simone van Eeerdenburg/NL, "Jazz", shawl, 250 x 70 cm, knitted

Above: Anna Gerle/CH: Vest, jacquard knitting, felted Annette Quentin-Stoll/D: "Placenta", hand-felted



This autumn, several interesting textile events coincided in Spain, which, unluckily for lovers of textiles, is rather unusual. The Costume Museum of Madrid hosted both an international Fashion Congress (22nd -24th October) and Fibras 08, an international exhibition featuring 16 artists which is reviewed elsewhere in this magazine. The Terrassa Documentation Centre and Textile Museum hosted the third edition of Suave 3, together with a meeting of ACTE, a European textile association composed mostly of cities and regions where the textile industry used to be the principal economical factor, and that are now struggling to find a way to draw value from their past. On 17th October, the Museum hosted a technical seminar, *The Thread of Innovation*, organised by ACTE together with the Terrassa City Council and a number of local and industry institutions.

On 23rd October, the award ceremony for the National Craft Prizes was held in the head office of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade. Textiles were well represented this year as the main prize, worth €14,000, was awarded to Teixidors (Catalan for weavers), a Terrassa handweaving cooperative that sells home textiles worldwide. Most of the staff are mentally disabled people who have found this a way to maintain an independent lifestyle. In 2007, the Product Prize was awarded to Nuna, whose Nuno felt coats and accessories were a real hit with the media.

Centre: Luis Acosta/NL: Object, braided; paper
Left: Liz Clay/UK: Embroidered felted scarf

"SOFT 3" EXHIBITION

Suave (meaning Soft) 3, the third judged International Biennial of Textile Fashion Accessories, was organised by the Asociación de Creadores Textiles de Madrid, ACTM, and the Centre de Documentació i Museu Tèxtil de Terrassa (Barcelona) in collaboration with Crafts Catalonia (Government of Catalonia), the Barcelona Textile Guild and Oficio y Arte, a Spanish craft organisation. The aim is to promote innovation in the textile crafts, showing best practice cases of creativity, inspiration and good design, and to encourage international exchanges in the field.

The judges were Eulalia Morral, Director of the Centre de Documentació i Museu Tèxtil de Terrassa; Laura Novik, a designer and fashion trend analyst from Chile; Lisbeth Tolstrup, a textile artist, art writer and author of a book on textile jewellery from Denmark; Luis Acosta, a textile designer and artist from the Netherlands, and the collective vote of ACTM members.

Exhibition dates were 9th October to 9th November, although the official opening took place on 16th October. During the event, María Luisa Samaranch, designer and owner of Hipotesis, a Barcelona shop specialising in contemporary jewellery and textile accessories by international craftspeople, will guide a tour of the show and provide information on the commercial potential and other aspects of the various pieces on display.

Suave 3 is a unique opportunity to know the latest trends in textile creation, especially in

Europe, obviously the place of origin of most works. All pieces are handmade by their makers although, interestingly, most of these call themselves artists or designers, never craftspeople. In 2010 the exhibition will travel to Madrid and elsewhere in Spain.

The organisers welcome and promise to study carefully proposals to loan the exhibition to institutions in other countries. As in previous editions, Suave 3 is truly international, featuring work from 42 selected participants and 5 invited artists from 15 countries: Spain (16), Germany (9), United Kingdom (3), Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Japan (2 each) and one participant each from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Chile, Georgia, Italy and Turkey. The invited artists were Lisbeth Degn and Lotte Dalgaard from Denmark, Monse Ramírez from Costa Rica, Cuenco (Paula Leal and Manuela Tromben) from Chile and Luis Acosta from the Netherlands.

As for techniques, felt is still king, although there is a substantial increase in knitted pieces, some of them showing not only design quality but also a refreshing approach to material and form. Most of the pieces are one-offs, which can be read as art winning over design this time. With one exception, the participants were all women.

For more information please write to: actm@creadores textiles.org. A catalogue has not been published, but the pieces selected can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/actm.info/suave3?authkex=MTLPhsFvVLg>

Lala de Dios ■