



TEXTILHÖGSKOLAN
HÖGSKOLAN I BORÅS

e-text+textiles presents:

Exhibition BODY & SPACE
Innovative Textile Design from
the Swedish School of Textiles in Riga
15.02.2008 – 09.03.2008

Venue: LNMM exhibition hall Arsenal, Radošā darbnīca
Torņa street 1, Riga, Latvia
www.lnmm.lv

Textiles being an important part of our everyday lives since the early days of humanity are interwoven with multiple histories and associations - private, social, cultural, political and economic meanings. Their very familiarity and accessibility, their aesthetic, sensual, functional and performative characteristics as well as their ability to constantly change and evolve in response to cultural and technological transformation, make textiles an exciting and potent contemporary medium.

In the 21st century, under the impact of new materials and technologies, textiles are acquiring new and extended functions, aesthetics and meanings. Due to specialised material properties textile systems may respond to pressure, sound, light, fluids, heat, electricity, and chemical or mechanical stimuli. They are designed to interact with people and environments. Examples include responsive architectural membranes, clothing with integrated thermo-regulating systems, self-cleaning and antibacterial surfaces equipped with nano-coatings, flexible textile membranes with interwoven mechanical and digital networks, and textile systems with embedded sensors for a variety of end applications ranging from apparel and architecture to space industry, medicine, communication technologies and bioengineering, to art and design contexts.

The exhibition Body & Space will highlight the latest developments by the Swedish School of Textiles in Borås within this emergent research field of smart textile design and soft technologies.

On behalf of the e-text+textiles initiative, it is my great pleasure to welcome this imaginative and informative exhibition to Riga. I hope that Body & Space, with its accompanying seminar and workshop, will be a stimulating experience for all involved. Hopefully it will serve as a platform for fruitful discussions and new collaborations across the traditional boundaries of many disciplines as well as between the two countries.

Dr. Zane Bērziņa
Creative Director, e-text+textiles, Riga, Latvia
Research Fellow, CHRRCT, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK

Body & Space

The Swedish School of Textiles (THS) was originally a technical vocational school and its history dates back to the mid 1800. Since 1988 THS belongs to the University College of Borås, Sweden.

Today THS hosts a broad range of textile activities which form a good foundation for interdisciplinary and artistic development work in the areas of technology, engineering and design. The unique machine park available at the THS presents a challenge to both scientists and students as they collaborate with the technicians in experiments to create materials with entirely new characteristics.

The main purpose of the exhibition BODY & SPACE is to facilitate a discourse concerning new technical and smart textiles possibilities and to promote the educational and research profile of THS. A selection of materials, prototypes and products will demonstrate the creative experiments of the art, design and technology interactions taking place at THS, where aesthetics are combined with functions to develop design solutions for applications in various areas including medicine, wellbeing, safety, architecture, leisure, communication and many more.

The theme of the BODY & SPACE exhibition in Riga is dedicated to people's sensory experiences and wellbeing. It explores the following areas amongst others:

- Sound as experience and sound absorbing materials.
- The use of light in textiles for leisure and security.
- Textiles that change colour in interaction with people.

- Electronic textile membranes with warming properties.
- Pressure sensing textiles.
- Light emitting interactive textiles for glass facades.
- Textiles with integrated sensors for health monitoring.

We are convinced that practice led design researchers in active dialogue with the industry will play a significant role in the development of creative and innovative textiles for the future. Textiles are, through their flexibility, lightness and intricate constructions, one of the most important mediums for the next generation of materials.

Ulla Eson Bodin

Professor of Textile and Fashion Design

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