



**TALKING TEXTILES
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**THE KNIT OF TOGETHERNESS
Sunday, October 1st**

NYTM

TALKING TEXTILES

Yarns are the threads that bind us. Spun from animal fibres, farmed from nature, innovated in labs or unravelled from waste, they are currently at the forefront of contemporary culture with the exciting return of creative knitwear and crochet – simultaneously an expression of craft, resilience and protest but also a trendy way to combat the onslaught of digital technology and intelligence. Come learn more about how yarns relate to identity, circularity, diversity, empowerment, environment and social change. Now, more than ever, we will savour their federating power and celebrate the knit of togetherness.

Curated by Philip Fimmano as part of New York Textile Month, this special online conference brings together speakers from around the globe, continuing our dedication to textile creativity and education by offering this exciting programme free to all students and teaching faculty.

An international lineup of speakers features Li Edelkoort, Philip Fimmano, students from Polimoda's Farm to Fabric to Fashion Masters, and many more. The event also includes the announcement of the 2023 Dorothy Waxman International Textile Design Prize, proudly supported by Mohawk Group.

PROGRAM

9:00 AM THE KNIT OF TOGETHERNESS

Philip Fimmano, co-founder, Talking Textiles

9:05 AM SWADDLING: Autumn/Winter 2024-25

Li Edelkoort, trend forecaster

9:40 AM CONSCIOUS CASHMERE

Charlotte Björklund, founder, Linnea Lund

10:00 AM FARM TO YARN

Polimoda Textile Masters Second Year Students

Georgia Pfaff, Priya Deep & Sabrina Stadlober

10:20 AM FAIR ISLE KNITTING

Helen Wyld, Senior Curator of Historic Textiles, Global Arts, Cultures & Design, National Museums Scotland

10:40 AM MAXHOSA AFRICA

Laduma Ngxokolo, fashion designer

11:00 AM ANDEAN KNITTING

Aymar Ccopacatty, artist

11:20 AM SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

in conversation with Cynthia Hathaway, Woolmarch

11:40 AM REVOLUTION & KNITTING

Amy Twigger Holroyd, Associate Professor of Fashion & Sustainability, Nottingham Trent University

12:00 PM MENDING & KNITTING

Celia Pym, artist

12:20 PM OPEN SOURCE KNITTING

Ruth Herring, knitwear & crochet designer

12:45 PM SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dorothy Waxman International Textile Design Prize Announcement with Royce Epstein, Mohawk Group

1:00 PM approximate end



Li Edelkoort is a trend forecaster, publisher, humanitarian, design educator and exhibition curator. From 2015-2020 she was the Dean of Hybrid Design Studies at Parsons in New York where she founded a Textile Masters and the New York Textile Month festival.

Her thought-provoking writings and podcasts have become increasingly popular at a time when she is regarded as an activist and champion for change. In 2020, she founded the World Hope Forum as a platform to inspire the creative community to rebuild a better society. She is also on the Creative Council for all of Gap Inc.'s fashion brands, advising the group on creative innovation and sustainable practice. In 2022, Edelkoort collaborated with Polimoda in Florence to establish an innovative new textile masters called From Farm to Fabric to Fashion..

***edelkoort.us @edelkoortnyc @edelkoort.editions
@lidewijedelkoort @worldhopeforum***

Charlotte Björklund started her career working closely with Lidewij Edelkoort and the Trend Union team. She then honed her skills at Céline before working as a brand and communications consultant. Launching Linnea Lund in 2019, her eponymous brand where she shares a world that is very much her own: joyous, vibrant and inspiring. The brand works in collaboration with other families who are renowned for their great expertise and know-how: in Cagli, Italy, a family-owned workshop specialised in carding and combing wool threads, whose fibres originate from sustainable sheep farms in Mongolia; fifteen kilometres away, Linda manages a lovely, family-run knitting workshop where Linnea Lund labels are sewn by hand, with love and patience. Each item of clothing is made on demand so as to avoid over-production and waste of such precious wool. Björklund follows each step of the supply and production chain to ensure respectful and caring conditions for workers and animals alike.

linnealund.com @linnealund_official



Georgia Pfaff is a South African masters student in the Farm to Fabric to Fashion programme at Polimoda. Georgia aims to drive raw and sustainable futures by means of harnessing and supporting the earth's resources and natural fibers strategically. Her approach stems from being impassioned by finding and investigating the potential of natural fibres and materials. Having lived between several countries, Georgia aims to bring local plant and fibre solutions to the forefront within the North, South, East and West; offering a space for people and businesses to connect regionally, resourcefully and intelligently. Her passion for communication allows her to be a connecting agent between nature and people by means of written, photographic, visual and verbal expressions.



@gigi.pfaff



Priya Deep is an Indian fashion and textile designer with a strong commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. She firmly believes in creating timeless stories by endorsing deep respect for communities and time-honoured craft techniques. Her work combines fibre knowledge with her healing practice. Priya sees fashion as a form of communication, in which fibres have their own emotions and textiles, their own soul.

@priya_deep

Sabrina Stadlober is an Austrian fashion, textile and product designer, who strongly believes that we influence our environment by how we work and interact. A training in fashion design and several interdisciplinary collaborations in the fields of architecture, music, art and science led to a holistic creative approach. Through her creative process, Sabrina seeks to discover the essence of things by learning, reflecting and subsequently getting her hands onto something. In the last few years, Sabrina has focused on textiles and garments as a way to express thoughts and concepts, culminating in her studies in the Farm to Fabric to Fashion masters at Polimoda in Florence.

@sabinastadlober





Marinela Yzellari was born in Albania and moved to Italy with her family at the age of nine. She first studied fashion in high school and continued at NABA University in Milan. Marinela possesses a deep passion for fashion, art, textiles, and craft; including craft techniques that were handed down from her grandmother to her mother and now to her. Through her studies in Polimoda's Farm to Fabric to Fashion Textile Masters, Marinela has developed a sensitivity towards fibres, especially natural fibres. For her, fibres have become not just a preferred medium of artistic expression, but also a form of therapy and wellness.

@maryzellari

polimoda.com @textilespolimoda @polimodafirenze

Helen Wyld is Senior Curator responsible for European Textiles, medieval to 1850, at the National Museum of Scotland. She has a specialism in the history of tapestry in early modern Britain and Europe, and recently published a book on the subject, *The Art of Tapestry* (National Trust/ Philip Wilson). She is now focussing on new projects around Scotland's place in the global textile trade. Other research interests include Jacobite material culture, early modern domestic embroidery, 16th-century jewels and miniature culture, the use of textiles in sacred and ritual contexts, and Scottish textile production. Helen is also pursuing a PhD at the university of Edinburgh on the use of textiles at the court of Charles I, focussing on the survival of sacred ritual practices after the Reformation in England and Scotland.

@wyldtextiles





Sir Laduma Ngxokolo is a cultural innovator and award winning designer born in Gqeberha and currently based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Based on Ngxokolo's traditional Xhosa heritage, known for its exceptional beadwork, patterning and colours, his brand started as a thesis project for his National Diploma in Textile Design and Technology from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2010, titled "the colour scheme". It was initiated as the established MAXHOSA AFRICA in April 2011, with current aspirations of expanding the solutions it provides for knitwear and all fields encompassing the design space. MAXHOSA AFRICA has not only taken up space within the continent of Africa, but across the globe, with the brand being recognised with invites to showcase the work on international platforms such as at Pride of Africa: Africa Fashion Week Barcelona Awards (2017) and New York Fashion Week (2019), to name a few. Ngxokolo was also awarded the Marie Claire Prix De Excellence Best Emerging Designer Award (2011) and the GQ designer of the year award (2021). His designs have been displayed and archived at the Smithsonian Museum and MoMA as well as in museums at Hamburg, Switzerland and Berlin.

shop.maxhosa.africa @laduma

Aymar Ccopacatty knits, weaves, braids, and collages with recycled plastic bags that he collects mostly from his homeland of Peru. Now based in Providence after studying at the Rhode Island School of Design, Aymar wielded the giant knitting needles during Perú: Pachamama's first Festival Community Day. He was one of many participants who came to show how Peruvian cultures remain, adapt, and evolve in the United States. He was especially glad to meet the Sarawja dancers from Moquegua, neighbors to his hometown of Puno, in southern Peru on the shore of Lake Titicaca. He is currently an artist-in-residence at RISD and Project Manager for Community Engagement and Cultural Patrimony at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

@a.y.m.a.r.t





Dr Amy Twigger Holroyd is Associate Professor of Fashion and Sustainability at Nottingham Trent University. Through design-led participatory research, she explores plural possibilities for post-growth fashion systems: alternative ways of living with our clothes that meet our fundamental human needs and respect ecological limits. After studying fashion and textile design, Amy launched her experimental knitwear label, Keep & Share, in 2004. She sold her knitwear nationally and internationally and received a number of awards, including the Crafts Council Development Award. Amy studied for a PhD at Birmingham City University from 2010 to 2013. Entitled *Folk Fashion: Amateur Re-knitting as a Strategy for Sustainability*, this work utilised a participatory workshop-based methodology to generate new insights about experiences of making, remaking and fashion. The research formed the basis of her first book, *Folk Fashion: Understanding Homemade Clothes*, published in 2017. The practical side of the project developed into Reknit Revolution, an initiative that supports knitters to rework the items in their wardrobes.

amytwiggerholroyd.com @amytwiggerh

Hasnain Lilani is Materials Specialist and Co-Founder of Datini Fibres, Sweater Museum and Upcycling Farm, and is based in Karachi, Pakistan. He is educated in textile and knitwear design, hand made textiles and natural dyeing. After working many years in the denim industry, Hasnain has dedicated himself to recycling textile materials, and finding environmental solutions to reuse global post consumer waste. One of the largest recyclers of post-consumer sweater waste, Datini Fibres supplies recycled fibers to customers in Italy and Japan. Hasnain has been a sustainable advisor to many companies including Nylstar & Montefibre, and was part of Renewcel of Sweden's pilot project producing cellulose fiber from textile waste. As he says, 'At Datini Fibres, we believe humans are a part of nature. Our place within it is to support and protect the abundance it offers. Wool is one of the oldest natural fibres, and is a gift to us from nature. Growing and harvesting wool takes great care from humans to treat it as a beautiful resource. We believe part of this caring system is to re-utilize wool at the end of its cycle. This supports a holistic mindset for the protection of natural resources, and future generations.'

www.datinifibres.com @recyclewool



Cynthia Hathaway founder of Hathaway Designs focuses on participatory artistic research (in location and with communities), concept development, prototypes and designs based on social themes such as community and local industry regeneration (Car Mecca), food and city production (XXL City Harvester), design methodologies for social sustainability (The Mennonite and Amish Design Methodology) and the production of public space (The Department of Search). Hathaway Designs designs meeting spaces for marginalized voices and productions that are not always heard and acknowledged, but are vital for the development of resilient communities. The productions of Hathaway Designs are working prototypes placed in a context to reveal and celebrate local material and knowledge resources (human, natural and animal), and kick start self-organization. The prototypes (whether it be a sweatershop and wool organization, a corn field or a miniature train track), are built in collaboration with local inhabitants, and upon shared values. Hathaway's designs create open, public spaces for interaction, production and debate, and a new sense of citizenry in places of disconnection.

hathawaydesigns.org



Celia Pym has been mending clothing since 2007. Working with garments that belong to individuals as well as items in museum archives, she has broad experience with stories of damage, from moth holes to accidents with fire. Pym is interested in exploring the varied evidence of damage, and how repair draws attention to the places where garments and cloth wear down and grow thin. 'Darning is small acts of care,' she says, 'and paying close attention.' In 2017, Pym was shortlisted for the Woman's Hour Craft Prize and the inaugural Loewe Craft Prize. Her work has been exhibited at the Cheongju Craft Biennale, Cheongju, Korea (2023); 'Connect. Reveal. Conceal', Make Hauser & Wirth, London, UK (2023); 'Threads: Breathing stories into materials,' Arnolfini, Bristol, UK (2023); 'Say Less', Herald St, London, UK (2022); and 'Keep Being Amazing', Firstsite, Colchester, Essex, UK (2022). Pym is an Associate Lecturer in Textiles at the Royal College of Art and published her first book, 'On Mending: Stories of Damage and Repair' in 2023.

www.celiapym.com @celiapym

Ruth Herring is an established knitwear and crochet designer. When JW Anderson asked her to write the pattern for a cardigan, she had just two days to convert the oversized patchwork knit - as worn by Harry Styles - into a series of instructions. Since then, the open-sourced pattern has been downloaded over 20,000 times spawning a whole new generation of knitters. Herring also works with undergraduate fashion students at Westminster Fashion and Central Saint Martins on their graduate show collections while she also teaches knitting and crochet skills to those that haven't gone down a fashion degree route. Ruth is passionate about the importance of craft in fashion. "Keeping the skills alive" has been her sign off for decades and to this end she has taught hundreds of people to knit and crochet; many have gone on to design and sell their own knitwear and just as important many more benefit from the mindfulness and feelgood factor. Her current cohort of learners include 4 visually impaired women.



@confessions_of_a_yarnaholic



Philip Fimmano is a trend analyst and consultant, contributing to Trend Union's forecasting books, magazines and strategic studies for international companies in fashion, textiles, interiors and lifestyle. In 2011, Fimmano co-founded Talking Textiles with Li Edelkoort; an ongoing initiative to promote awareness and innovation in textiles through touring exhibitions, a trend publication, a design prize and free educational programmes including New York Textile Month, a citywide festival celebrating textile creativity each September. He is the co-author of the design book *A Labour of Love* (Lecturis, 2020) and the co-founder of the World Hope Forum, a new platform for creative community building. Fimmano is the mentor of Polimoda's fashion forecasting masters and textile masters in Florence, and he is on the Board of Directors for the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe. Fimmano is also on the Creative Council for all of Gap Inc.'s brands, advising the group on innovation and sustainable practice.

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Talking Textiles is an annual trend publication for textile lovers that also highlights NYTM's events. The publication spans both tradition and innovation by international mills and practitioners.

Purchase your copy at edelkoortedititions.com

