

TALKING TEXTILES CONFERENCE: TEXTILES THAT HEAL

PROGRAM: Friday, September 30

(New York EST times)

9:00 AM Li Edelkoort, trend forecaster
FROM DISRUPTION TO SALVATION

9:20 AM Sugandha Gupta, textile designer
FROM TOUCH TO EMOTION

9:40 AM Rachel Cohen, founder & executive director, Common Threads Project
FROM TRAUMA TO HEALING

10:00 AM Nuala Goodman, designer
FROM RESISTANCE TO COLOUR

10:20 AM Preeti Gopinath, Director, MFA Textiles, Parsons / The New School
FROM INTROSPECTION TO PHILOSOPHY

10:40 AM Li Edelkoort & Philip Fimmano, co-founders, Farm to Fabric to Fashion, Polimoda
FROM FARM TO FABRIC

11:00 AM Heidi Hankaneimi, artist
FROM MIND TO MENDING

11:20 AM Yukako Satone, Saori weaver & founder, Loop of the Loom
FROM ZEN TO RECOVERY

11:40 AM Royce Epstein, LEED AP, A&D Design Director, Mohawk Group
FROM SCHOOL TO STAR: Dorothy Waxman International Textile Design Prize Announcement

12:00 PM Li Edelkoort, trend forecaster
FROM CHARACTER TO CREATIVITY

1:00 PM APPROXIMATE END

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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.



SUGANDHA GUPTA is a textile artist, designer and educator. She creates sensory textiles that include a wider audience through their senses. Her creative practice investigates materials through exploration and transformation using traditional processes. Her pieces are reflective of her identity as a disabled woman and invite audiences to explore their embodied knowledge through their sensory engagement. Her research interests lie at the intersections of inclusive practices, sustainability and meaning making through textiles and wearables. Her teaching philosophy as an art and design educator is focused on rigorous exploration, reflective practice and research-based inquiry. Gupta's disability advocacy practice at museums, schools and universities redefines disabilities as opportunities and strengths. Her work has been presented at the American Crafts Council Show, Smithsonian Craft Show, Hunterdon Art Museum, Talking Textiles and Disability Unite Festival.



RACHEL COHEN is the founder and director of The Common Threads Project whose model is rooted in neuroscientific and socio-cultural understanding of trauma, revives an ancient practice found in diverse contexts: women come together to sew their stories onto cloth, to disclose the unspeakable atrocities they have experienced and to support one another. Common Threads Project integrates this tradition with best practices from trauma-informed therapy, bodywork, and psycho-education. The organisation's clinical partners, under its supervision, form therapy groups of 12 to 15 women who have experienced SGBV. These women then undergo a 6-month treatment process which involves the creation of a story cloth, as well as traditional trauma therapy interventions. The women's sewing circle provides mutual support and safety and enables the multi-dimensional work of trauma recovery.

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NUALA GOODMAN is an artist who lives in Milan. She draws, paints portraits, designs textiles, teaches, exhibits and occasionally curates for the Office of Public Works in Ireland. Over a thirty year period connected to the world of fashion and design in Italy she has collaborated with Ettore Sottsass, Fiorucci, Alessi, Swatch, Moroso, Nilufar Gallery, Donatella Pellini, Paul Smith, Luisa Via Roma, 10 Corso Como, Biffi and others. Her recent 'Gandhi in Colour' rugs are the beginning of a design collaboration with Saraswati Global Ltd. She is currently researching and making a series of textile tapestries for a historic Italian design brand and collaborating with design auction house Artemest. She teaches Project Methodology and Textile Design to fashion design students at Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (NABA) in Milan and Rome.

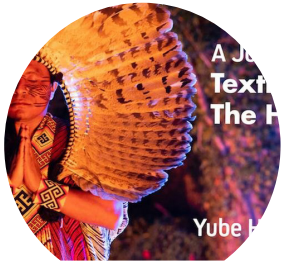


PREETI GOPINATH is an educator, textile designer, product development and marketing professional with extensive international experience in the area of creative design for home and apparel textiles, CAD (including texture mapping), styling, production, sourcing, merchandising, entrepreneurship and research with over 20 years of international experience in the textiles industry. She graduated from the National Institute of Design in India where she focused on weaving, printing, embroidery and garment design. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in textile development, design, marketing and technology at the Fashion Institute of Technology, as well as fashion design, business and management at George Brown College in Toronto. Gopinath has written for TheSweet Home.com, and has worked on product and design for Carini Lang, New York; Springs Global, Canada; and Hua Fang USA. Gopinath's research explores traditional Gyaser weaving techniques, particularly handloom, silk brocade weaving of Benares, India.



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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HEIDI HANKANIEMI'S work listens to the mundane and attempts to interpret the narratives which are embedded in our everyday. It draws from domestic activities: habits, objects and intimacy, and looks for ways in which to create paths between the private and the public, between the inside and the outside. She believes that handmade objects have a physical memory and absorb the essence of their makers. The process of sewing is essential to her: piercing the fibers allows the New York-based Finn to create both a physical and an emotional bond with the material. Working with old textiles is especially important, her mission is to give discarded handiworks and their creators a new existence. After participating in NYTM in 2021, this year she is part of the group exhibition "Tectonic Threads," curated by Ragna Froda at Mana Contemporary Art Center.



YUKAKO SATONE studied visual design and worked as a graphic designer in Japan. At the age of 25, she moved to New York to work as an assistant art director for an advertising agency. After devoting her time to raising her daughter, she encountered Misao Jo in Japan, the founder of SAORI. She opened a SAORI weaving studio in 2005 called Loop of the Loom. She received grants from Peace Stone Foundation as a teaching artist in Senegal and The Laura Lenzner Adasko Artist in Residence programme at Bank Street School for Children in 2011. One of Loop of the Loom's missions, the "Weaving-in-Action" project is to introduce community weaving and to build an inclusive community for people with or without disabilities for self-discovery and independence using the SAORI method. There have been many SAORI workshops to create woven sculptures with children using recycled materials as well as hands-on weaving instruction. These workshops have not only happened in the studio but also at the following events as public art with many organisations.



ROYCE EPSTEIN is the A&D Design Director for Mohawk Group. As the face to the architecture and interior design community, her role is to evolve and share Mohawk Group's Design Vision within the industry, and to leverage product design with what A&D desires in the field. Constantly on the watch for new trends in all aspects of design and culture, Royce feeds this insight to all our industry's touch points. A veteran materials and product specialist, Royce spent two decades working in A&D firms before working with Mohawk. She was named the 2015 Designer of the Year by Interiors and Sources Magazine, and received a HiP award for Rising Star from Interior Design Magazine at Neocon 2016. Royce lives in Philadelphia where she is active in the design, art, and music scenes. She is a board member of Collab at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.