**Rijswijk Textile Biennial 2015**

**9 May - 27 September**

**Museum Rijswijk**

Open: Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm

A huge pile of discarded clothes has swallowed up the historic furniture in the study of Museum Rijswijk, where 19th-century poet Hendrick Tollens once worked. This installation by Derick Melander is representative of the 4th Rijswijk Textile Biennial: textile that looks beyond its own material.

Museum Rijswijk is showing textile artworks by nineteen international artists. Apart from the great diversity of textiles and applications, there are also conspicuously common threads among the participants this year. The most important one? All the submitted works provide material for thought and reflection.

Textile inherently appeals to the touch. Sensations and associations are evoked at the touch and sight of particular fabrics. Vintage clothes and hand-crafted pieces, that only a couple of generations ago were made in every household, conjure up memories of particular people or times.

Making one’s own clothes, embroidery and knitting are no longer a natural part of daily household tasks and techniques are being forgotten.

This is not the case for the 19 international artists of this 4th Rijswijk Textile Biennial. Vintage textile, wool, embroidery floss and flax are used in combination with techniques such as weaving, cross-stitching and knitting to conjure up loving memories, melancholy or even alienation through a contemporary idiom.

In Kari Steihaug’s work old clothes and their previous wearers are reunited. She partly unravels knitted Norwegian jumpers and with the freed yarn knits a group portrait of those who have worn the jumpers. The fragility of our existence is central to Ying Chew’s work. She uses embroidery techniques and Victorian mourning motifs to give the viewer cause for thought. With imagery and techniques rooted in Latin American folk art, Leo Chiachio and Daniel Giannone make large tapestries that portray themselves (with their Dachshund Piolin) in worlds of dreams, myths and legends.

Existing portraits are stitched and sewn upon by Monica Bohlmann until they become a high-relief image of an archetypal woman. Pauline M.M. Nijenhuis’s work induces a feeling of speed. Her depictions illustrate the most common views of our time: landscapes seen from a moving car.

All artists**:**

Caroline Bartlett (UK), Monica Bohlmann (DE), Ying Chew (AUS), Chiachio & Giannone (ARG), Ane Henriksen (DK), Raija Jokinen (FI), Katie Lewis (USA), Ruben Marroquin (USA), Amanda McCavour (CA), Caitlin McCormack (USA), Derick Melander (USA), Stephanie Metz (USA), Pauline M.M. Nijenhuis (NL), Henrique van Putten (NL), Rebecca Ringquist (USA),

Ida-Lovisa Rudolfsson (SE), Debra M. Smith (USA), Kari Steihaug (NO), Mai Tabakian (FR)

Catalogue

An illustrated, full-colour and bilingual (Dutch/English) catalogue of the works of participating artists is accompanying the Textile Biennial. Author of the catalogue is art historian Frank van der Ploeg. ISBN/EAN 978-90-821807-3-2. Retail price: € 19.75.

Textile Market

On Sunday 13 September from 1 to 5 pm there will be a big textile market in the forecourt of the museum and in the Oude Kerk opposite the museum.

The Textile Festival 2015 and the European Textile Network Conference in Leiden:

The first week of the Textile Biennial coincides with the Textile Festival 2015(13 -16 May) <http://www.textielfestival.nl/> and the European Textile Network Conference (13-19 May). <http://www.etn-net.org/etn/211e.htm>

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[**http://www.museumrijswijk.nl/rtb2015/index.html**](http://www.museumrijswijk.nl/rtb2015/index.html)