The Fabric of My Life - Newsletter 4

January – June 2020

The Fabric of My Life (FABRIC) is a joint project of cultural institutions in DK, GR, and DE with the aim to innovate and test new methods in the cultural sectors concerning migration history, to empower refugee women and to train cultural workers and design students. FABRIC fosters new digital and cultural products co-created with migrants.

In FABRIC, we see clothing as an individual means of communicating our identity, our history and the future at which we aim.

Due to the Corona virus pandemic most of our activities are delayed for 2021. This newsletter illustrates our short list of activities before the pandemic and how we tried to make it possible to work online.

What’s happened during the first 6 months of 2020 at CTR:

Podcast Workshop at CTR – Copenhagen, 24/1/2020
Our research assistant Gülzar Demir arranged a podcast workshop with Alice Louise Fitzsimons from CTR, it was an internal workshop for all CTR members. The aim with the workshop was to present how everyone is able to produce their own podcast for the project ‘The Fabric of My Life’. We had 7 attendees and it was a whole day event. In the end of the day all of them had produced a podcast and was able to upload their podcast on the platform thefabricofmylife.com.
14 new students to the project
Marie-Louise Nosch have engaged 14 master students in the project and they have each made 2 podcast for our website. Marie Louise describes her happiness by following words “Really funny and thought-provoking studies”.
As help for the student Gülzar Demir arranged one more podcast workshop for the student on February 17, 2020.

CTR welcome our new intern for 3 weeks (24/2-12/3 2020)
Hazel Mallon is originally from Ireland and has worked in the clothing industry for the last few years, mainly as a manufacturer. Several years ago she returned to her personal art practice with a particular focus on textile and handicrafts. She is currently pursuing her master’s degree in handicrafts and textiles at Konstfack in Stockholm. Her interest lies in researching the ideas of the body, memory, craftsmanship as well as function. She is eager to engage in social and emotional communication with people and textiles and pursues this way of thinking more deeply.
During her 3 weeks as an intern at CTR, she produced guidelines for our podcast website and wrote an internal report (see appendix) for the project. Hazel was also active on our Facebook page where she posted her activities and pictures. During her stay in Copenhagen she visited a lot of museums in and outside Copenhagen.
2 days before her farewell, Denmark closed down due to the Corona virus pandemic, so she left Denmark 12 of March 2020.

4th Steering Committee Meeting 29/4 2020
Under normal conditions the 4th Steering Committee Meeting was arranged to be in Greece but due to Corona virus we did an online zoom meeting.
What’s happened during the first 5 months of 2020 at DTM:

DTM in Corona-times

In the beginning of 2020, the DTM-team expected a great year of personal get-togethers of migrant women doing handicraft, of classes at the AMD Düsseldorf¹, and working on the exhibition-concept. The exhibition was scheduled for spring and summer of 2021.

Until March 2020, several meetings with the teachers of the AMD Düsseldorf, the KI Krefeld², and teachers of the BKVB Krefeld³ took place, in order to work out lessons, projects, and activities related to „Fabric of my Life“. Then, Corona hit Germany as well, and public life had to stand still. The DTM was closed to the public from March 16, 2020, for an – at that point – undetermined period, while the museum’s staff had to continue working. Creative solutions had to be found on all levels, colleagues had to work in homeoffice, and virtually. Several decisions had to be taken, for instance concerning the exhibition schedule:

• This year’s summer-exhibition historical underwear and photographs of Ellen Korth was postponed to spring/summer 2021.
• The actual exhibition “Zeitkolorit“, which was originally determined to close on April 10 had to be closed ahead of time, on March 16, was not removed but covered (fig. 1) to prevent the objects from light, waiting for its reopening. Rather spontaneously, the reopening was allowed for May 12. The exhibition will be shown until August 30, 2020.
• In the meantime, the exhibition “Goldener Drache“ on Chinese textiles of the DTM-collection, scheduled for October 11, 2020, is being stuck to, prepared and the catalogue is worked on.
• Changing the exhibition-schedules also effects the “Fabric of my Life“-exhibition scheduled for spring 2021. It has to be postponed to a later date in 2021 or possibly even to spring 2022.

Fig. 1 Hidden “Zeitkolorit“-exhibition waiting for reopening, photo by Annette Schieck.

¹ Akademie Mode und Design Düsseldorf.
² Kommunales Integrationszentrum Krefeld.
³ Berufskolleg Vera Beckers Krefeld.
Despite of the great shock caused by the crisis, the total quietness set free a great amount of creativity on various levels. Several activities were launched, enabled by the great support of the IT-department of the city of Krefeld, providing the museum with new technical possibilities. For instance, the DTM conducted the first telephone-press-conference at Krefeld just before Easter, and to the homepage of the city of Krefeld a section was installed providing parents with creative inspirations to keep their children busy, nourished by the cultural institutions of Krefeld. As for the DTM, the following activities can be named:


- Distribution to the „Kreativraum“-section of the Krefeld-homepage addressing families, offering creative ideas – crochet of toiletpaper-hat (annex 2 & 3).

- On May 2nd, the DTM has published a call to hand in self-portraits with self-made, creative masks to be awarded, titled “Von der Maskenpflicht zur Maskenkür“ – we have received 100 images, three prizes will be awarded to participants who have handed in functional and home-made masks. A fourth prize has been set up to be rewarding an artistic, less functional mask. A press-conference will be held on June 10. (for the call see: [https://rp-epaper.s4p-iapps.com/artikel/952033/16535971](https://rp-epaper.s4p-iapps.com/artikel/952033/16535971))

Apart from the general museum’s tasks, the DTM-team (Annette Schieck and Christina Schulte) has been very busy on keeping the “Fabric of my Life“-project going. Several activities have been launched and conducted, adapted to the current Corona-conditions:
I. DTM-Cooperation with AMD Düsseldorf

(1) The portrait-photography-class of the winter semester 2019/2020, by Felix Dobbert, supervised by Ralf Lobeck, was that the students had to sort out the best of all images, photoshop them and watermark them with the “Fabric”-logo. This process was finished by April and the final images were transferred to the DTM (fig. 2, annex 4).

![Fig. 2 Megumi Suzuki-Brandenbusch, Japan, wearing the fabrics of her life, a jeans-kimono and robot-obi at AMD-photoshooting, photo by Alina Kipker. Christina and Annette are currently sending out the images to the models and inviting them for interviews.](image)

(2) Three classes were scheduled for the summer semester 2020. Thanks to the AMD, they are all being held in virtual space, once a week.

- “Formfindung Kleid” (= “form-finding dress”), 2nd semester, is being conducted by Claus Bortas and Ines Majowski, supervised by Prof. Markus Wirz.

  The kick-off-zoom-meeting was held on April 15, 2020, with 21 participants. The half-time interval took place on June 3, 2020, with 21 participants and Christina Schulte and Annette Schieck.

  Inspired by ethnic dress, students are to create own designs starting from mood-boards, sketches, collages, towards mock-ups and the final realisation of dresses to be included in the “Fabric“-exhibition. The DTM donated textiles, embroidery yarns, beads etc. Within the half-time meeting students had 5 minutes to give a presentation on their ideas, concepts and approaches, followed by discussions and consultation (fig. 3).
Fig. 3 DTM-AMD-Zoom-class on “form-finding dress”, by Ines Majowski and Claus Bortas (right column pictures no. 2 and 3), screenshot by Christina Schulte.

• “Mode im Kontext” (= “fashion in context”), 6th semester, is being conducted by Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Hackspiel-Mikosch, supervised by Regine Hövelmann.

The kick-off-zoom-meeting was held on April 15, 2020, with 31 participants, the half-time interval on May 6 and May 20, 2020, with 25 participants, and Christina Schulte and Annette Schieck (fig. 4).

Within this theoretical class, students had to do research on topics like “cultural appropriation and fashion”. Case-studies were, for instance, the “Cruise Collection 2020“ by Dior, waxprints, exotism and YSL etc. Students gave their papers in pecha-kucha-presentation, followed by discussions. Currently they are working them out to hand in written essays by the end of the semester. These essays will be integrated into the “Fabric“-exhibition.
• **“Fashion Journalism“, 6th semester, is being conducted by Heidi Kincaid.**

Students learn how to conduct interviews – in English. Selecting the right questions, motivating people to talk, putting the spoken words into written texts, is being taught by Heidi Kincaid, a native speaker. As interview-partners serve the genuine “Fabric”-colleagues, namely us. We are currently being contacted to tell the stories about the fabrics of our lives and migration.

II. **DTM-Cooperation with the KI Krefeld**

Originally, the DTM and the KI intended to invite migrant women to get together, talk, eat, and do traditional handicraft in the group. Due to Corona this idea had to be cancelled, and another path was found: In cooperation, DTM and KI composed a circular letter, asking women to work with textiles individually, at home. Their creations shall all deal with “memories”, and may consist of a piece of artwork or a dress-element.

The call was translated into seven languages (Albanian, Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Russian, Turkish) and sent out by the KI (annex 5 & 6). Additionally, it was published in the newspapers and on the webpage of the city of Krefeld. The results of this project are to be integrated into the „Fabric“-exhibition.
III. DTM-Cooperation with BKVB Krefeld

Within the Corona-lockdown, the vocational school BKVK and the DTM have composed an application for funding a project associated to the “Fabric of my Life” – which was granted. The funding pays a teacher for one week and material.

The project consists of a one week workshop to be held at BKVB in November, conducted by Jeni Josten, an expert in traditional ethnic embroidery. – She is highly experienced in teaching her knowledge about ethnic embroidery in theory and in practical work. – The workshop will be held as an additional course to the students of BKVB – some of them have foreign backgrounds. The week is divided into three sections, starting with a theoretical lesson on ethnic dress, decorative techniques such as embroidery, and how to carry them out by hand and/or computer. Within the second section, students start designing and sketching their own designs quoting ethnic embroidery, and in third section, they process one element of their designs, such as a sleeve, collar, or even a Corona-mask, employing the newly learned techniques. The creations of this workshop will be integrated into the “Fabric“-exhibition.
What's happened during the first 5 months of 2020 at ARTEX:

ARTEX – Call for Textile Stories on Social Media

The current circumstances and the social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic, have led to the temporary cancellation of most activities of the programme, such as textile workshops with refugees, meetings and discussions, interviews and exhibitions.

In order to overcome this, ARTEX launches an open digital call to collect “textile stories”, personal stories or historical narratives related to textiles and dress, as well as textile production tools and textile making techniques that bring forward memories and emotions from lost homes or family heritage.

In these challenging times, we go back to our roots, we recall memories, we dig up old stories and record them, in order to gather them in the special digital platform created by FABRIC (thefabricofmylife.com). Each story (c. 5 minutes time) is recorded in the native tongue of the speaker resulting to a multilanguage and multicultural site.

We ask everyone interested in participating and offering an anonymous story to FABRIC to record it (a mobile phone and a quite space are enough) and mail it to info@artextiles.org, along with a representative title, a few key words (e.g. type of textile/dress, origin, technique etc.), as well as any characteristic pictures, in order to be uploaded to the digital platform. This virtual space will remain accessible after the end of the programme for anyone interested to listen to stories of people from different countries and cultures, all linked by textiles.

#CreativeEuropeAtHome, #creativesunite, #TheFabricOfMyLife, #ARTEX, #TextileStories
Der Mann im Stadt in China ist unbekannt. Wer dort die Schatten des Todes, die auf der Nase der großen Dämonen aus fallen, in die Augen der menschlichen Schöpfung greifen, ist nicht nur unsichtbar, sondern auch unerreichbar. Dieser Mensch mit dem Namen Hase hat bereits in mehreren Fällen gezeigt, was er bewirken kann.

In der Tat ist die Stadt in China voller Geheimnisse. Wem will der Mann im Stadt helfen? Und wie kann man ihn erreichen?

Die Antwort darauf findet man in diesem Artikel.


Der Hase im Mond: Ein Museumsjuwel


VON PETRA SEDIBER

Mehr als zwei Jahrhunderte haben flüchtige Bürger der baronen Erdgeschosse die Hauseingänge und die Treppen zur Mittelstufe des Gebäudes erlebt. Doch in den vergangenen Jahren haben sich die Verhältnisse grundlegend verändert.

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Rathausumbau in Fischeln hat begonnen

Baubeginn-Verzögerungen, Fördergeld-Panne, Kostensteigerung wegen Brandschutz-Ertüchtigung. Trotz aller Widrigkeiten ist der Kampf um die Barrierefreiheit des Fischelner Rathauses gewonnen.

VON OLGA FOSSKAL

The Hase in the Moon: A Museum Treasure

The Deutsche Textile Museum possesses a rare and valuable datable textile from the 18th century. The depiction is part of Chinese mythology and does not fit as well with Easter as it does with the Corona period.

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VON PETRA SEDIBER
Deutsches Textilmuseum Krefeld – Beitrag zum Kreativraum in Corona-Zeiten
26.3.2020

Behüte Deine letzte Reserve!

Das Thema Toilettenpapier beschäftigt derzeit viele Menschen und die Sorge um die Behebung eines eventuellen Mangels veranlasst sie zu merkwürdigen Verhaltensweisen. Um dieses ganz besondere Papier richtig zu verwahren und zu würdigen, haben wir uns an die gute alte, deutsche Tradition erinnert, die letzte Reserve in ganz besonderer Weise zu schützen und zu präsentieren: Den gehäkelten Toilettenpapierhut, in moderner Gestaltung.

Das Beispiel ist in Form einer Erdbeere gestaltet, kann aber auch als Tomate genutzt werden oder – wenn man violette oder grünes Garn verwendet – auch als Aubergine, Apfel oder sonst ein Obst oder Gemüse.

**Man benötigt**
Wolle, 1 Rolle Toilettenpapier, Häkelnadel, Stopfnadel und Schere

![Hutgestaltung](image)

Der Hut wird durchgehend in festen Maschen gehäkelt. Grundlage ist die runde Form.
Man beginnt mit 3 Luftmaschen. Bereits mit der 1. festen Masche muss man zunehmen, indem man immer 2 bis 3 feste Maschen in die gleiche Luftmasche einsticht.

![Hutgestaltung](image)
Wenn das Rund die richtige Größe erreicht hat, nimmt man eine Runde lang nur den inneren Faden. Dadurch entsteht ein Knick und man kann im rechten Winkel die Wandung herstellen.


Mit weißem Garn stickt man die Kerne der Erdbeere auf. Fertig!
Der „Toilettenrollenl rift“ gibt es als Hälkelanleitung

Verreicht von Chrien Fiehrmann
Es geht um eine Reise 800 Jahre in die Vergangenheit, das Mittelalter. Von deutsch-kulturhistorisch interessierten Lektüren, die als Dankgeschenk von AKN Bürgern über das Pressemuseum in Krefeld gekommen sind, bis hin zu einem Kulturtipp, der dem Stadtarchiv in Krefeld eine sehr große Hilfe wird.

Die Redaktion lanciert das Kreativ-Postkarten-Projekt, von dem überwiegend lokale Akteure berichten. Hierfür gibt es einen eigenen Abschnitt auf unserer Website.

Den „Toilettenrollenl rift“ gibt es als Hälkelanleitung.
Krefelder Kultur C5

Stellungsspiele mit Kiefernholz-Objekten

Der Künstler Wolfgang Hahn beispiele für die Pförtnerloge mit zwei großen Elementen. Die Konfiguration wird er regelmäßig verändern: So soll die simple Form zusammengesetzte Vereoche ihre Wandlungsfähigkeit zeigen.

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Memories in textile

Invitation to participate in a project of the German Textile Museum (DTM) of Krefeld and the Integration department of Krefeld

What we are looking for: memories, stories, traditions and handicrafts

What it is about: The German Textile Museum (DTM) and the department of Integration are partners of the European cooperation project “The fabric of my life” (in short: FABRIC) together with colleagues in Copenhagen and Athens (see www.ctr.hum.dk).

We are dealing with the understanding between people of different origins about their clothing that works a like a language.

Each of us conveys information about ourselves to our counterpart by choosing our clothing. The choice of the colours shows our mood; the cut and the combination of each garment indicates how progressive, modern, creative or unconventional we are; what opinion we represent and what traditions we maintain.

Our project serves the purpose of being able to read and understand these dress codes and so, through this procedure to get to know each other better, to clear up any misunderstandings and to draw more attention on one another. That’s why we need your support.

What to do: do you remember special occasions from your past?

For example:

- the centre of your ancestral life
- an event in your family
- a travel
- a special festival
- a meal
- a great love
- a wonderful dream
- a beloved poem
- traditional handicrafts techniques
- traditional costumes
- ......

Work from home – each for yourself or with your own family but unfortunately currently not together in community – with your memories of a textile object such as a piece of clothing (blouse, dress,...), a wall hanging, a pillow case or a carpet.

You are completely free to choose the material and the technique. Embroider, knit, crochet, sew, tie or glue. Use what is available to you and send us photos of what you have created and tell us the story of your artwork.
If you need material, you can contact the German Textile Museum (DTM) and there you will find fabric remnants, embroidery thread and wool.

**What happens to the objects:** The project “The fabric of my life” enables an exhibition at the German Textile Museum in Krefeld to be created. There, your work will be presented together with the results of other projects, such as a photo series of people in their traditional clothing or fashion design, combined with objects from the museum’s collection.

**Who can participate:** anyone who is in the mood for it

**Contact persons:** Dr. Annette Schieck and Christina Schulte in the DTM (Tel: 02151 – 9469450, textilmuseum@krefeld.de) and Dr. Tagrid Yousef Integration officer Krefeld (Tel. 02151 – 862502).
FABRIC Albainisch

Kujtime në tekstil

Për çfarë bëhet fjalë:
DTM dhe Departamenti i Integrimit janë partnerë të projektit i bashkëpunimit evropian "Pëlhura e jetës ime" (e shkur të: FABRIK) së bashku me kolegët në Kopenhagë dhe Athinë (shih www.ctr.hum.dk). Ne merremi me komunikim midis njerëzve me origjinën të ndryshme rrëth tyre Veshje që funksionon si gjuhë. Secili nga ne transmerton informacione për homologun tonë përmes zgjedhjes së veshjeve tonavetë. Zgjedhja e ngjyrave tregon disponimin tonë; prerja dhe kombinimi i Veshjet tregon e sa të përparuar, modernë, krijues apo individualë jemi; që Opinion ne përfaqësojmë dhe cilat tradita i ruajmë.

Projekti ynë shërben për të qenë në gjendje të lexojmë dhe kuptojmë këto kode veshjesh, gjë që na bën të ndryshëmnjiheni më mirë me njëri-tjetrin, pastroni keqkuptimet dhe sa ma shumë kujdesem për njëri-tjetrin. Ne kemi nevojë për mbështetjen tuaj për këtë!

Qfarë duhet të bëni:
A ju kujtohet situata të veçanta në të kaluarën tuaj? Për shembull:
- në jeten e stërgjyshorve,
- një ngjarje në familjen tënde,
- një udhëtiminjë
- festival i veçantënjë
- ni dashuri e madhë
- e madhenjë ëndërr
- e mrekullueshmenjë poezi
- e dashurteknikat tradizacionale të punëdore,
Kostumet tradizacionale.
Procesi në shtëpi - të gjithë për veten tuaj ose me familjen tuaj, dhe për fat të keq jo aktualisht në Komuniteti - kujtimet tuaja në një objekt tekstili siç është një pjesë e veshjeve (Bluzë, fustan, ...), një jastëk ose një qilim. Ju jeni plotësisht të lirë të zgjidhni materialin dhe teknologjinë. Qëndisje, thurje, thur me grep, qepje. Përdorni atë që është në dispozicion për ju dhe dërgoni tek ne Fotografitë e asaj që keni krijuar dhe na tregoni historinë tuaj art. Nëse keni nevojë për materiale, mund të kontaktoni DTM dhe ta merrni atë atje. Mbetjet e rrobave, fijet e qëndisjes dhe leshit.

Qka ndodh me objektet: Projekti "Pëlhora e jetës sime" krijon një ekspozitë në Muzeu gjerman i tekstilit Krefeld. Aty puna juaj së bashku me rezultateprojekte të tjera, të tilla si një seri fotografish të njerëzve në veshjet e tyre tradicionaleose dizajni i modës, i kombinuar me objekte nga koleksioni i muzeut.

Kush mund të marrë pjesë: Kushdo që dëshiron. Personat e kontaktit: Dr. Annette Schieck dhe Christina Schulte në DTM (Tel. 02151-9469450, textilmuseum@krefeld.de) dhe Dr. Tagrid Yousef Zyrtar për Integrim Krefeld (Tel 02151-862.502).