PUSHING THE LIMITS
A Virtual Shaft Weaving Art Exhibition
Opening December 1st 2020
https://oliviermasson.art/SWE/SWE.html
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Weaving is one of oldest human industries - not the oldest, and many kinds of looms or weaving devices have been accompanying mankind since the beginning of times. From the loom to the dobby loom, the history of weaving has been an uninterrupted succession of technological inventions until the arrival of the first Jacquard hand looms in 18th century France. The rest is history. Today we are living in the digital era of contemporary textile artists use this tool which allows for an almost unlimited freedom to weavers.

But this fact should not hide that many of today's artists and designers are happily enjoying weaving in shaft looms as weavers have been doing for hundreds of years. Not only to weave the functional textiles often associated with the machine, but also works of art - from Anni Albers' personal techniques to Peter Collingwood’s engravings to quote only two well-known examples from the last century.

It is the aim of the curators of this exhibition to highlight the unlimited possibilities of this limited “machine” to create textile pieces that are works of art in their own right. They are looking for unique pieces handwoven on a multi-shaft loom.

The selected pieces will be shown in an online 3D exhibition engineered by textile artist Olivier Masson.

Curators

Olivier Masson, France. As a textile artist, he works on color and geometric designs inspired by shaft weaving. He published with François Roosel in 1987 the book "Shaft weaving and graph design" and created in 1985 the textile software "Pointeurel".

Lila de Dios, Spain. A historian of art by education and a vocational weaver. She designs and produces shaft weaving textiles, teaches and organizes textile exhibitions, conferences and educational events. She likes to define herself as a textile artist.
What is shaft weaving?

As its name suggests, shaft weaving uses a shaft loom. A shaft loom is a more complicated loom than the loom used for tapestry weaving. On a shaft loom, a number of warp threads are threaded on each shaft and these threads are always lifted with their corresponding shaft in a group. The weaver controls the lifting of one or several shafts at a time. This constraint generates specific, loom controlled graphic limitations. It is up to the weaver to get creative within these limitations.

Unlike the tapestry, where only the weft is visible, the warp threads will also be visible in shaft weaving. This blend of warp and weft threads is a fundamental trait of shaft weaving. The appearance of a fabric results from the optical mixture of the colors of the warp threads juxtaposed with the color of the weft threads.

The creation of a fabric requires the advance choosing of the colors of the warp and the threading of those warp threads through the heddles on the shafts in a particular sequence while setting up the loom. This combination of color choice and threading order determines the possible woven graphic combinations. Because of this prior programming, shaft weaving resembles algorithmic arts.

When weaving, greater freedom is possible with the choice of colors and materials for the weft than the warp colors that are fixed on the loom. Thus weaving is physically much closer to music than to painting in that a weaver can create color and graphic variations on a theme.

The art of shaft weaving has been practiced by people of all cultures for thousands of years.
Pine Trees
Leslute Wackernier

Gioce di Dama-Game of Checkers
Carmen Robere
Footpaths and Faultlines

Sarah-May Johnson

alaska

anneke kersen
Sea Shell

Natália Tavelkova

Observation, space and harvesting

Pedro Mura
Thorns in my side
Christina Hesford

Kapar
Susana Negev
Falling over the side of the mattress
Sara Elggren

Multicolor Plaid
Susie Taylor
I am weaving therefore I weave.

Elisabeth Christiansen

Orocdian Blessing

Pam McDougall
Metals personales
Luis Reuteria

Magic Weave
Corrie van Eijk
Metamorphosis 3D block

ise philips

Gavrid Diary XI

Alice Schlein
Deydream
Bonnie Isono

Untitled
Marian Stubenisky
Untitled

Inês Resende

Agost

Mariona Cañadas
The red bookshelf
Garfert

Night Rain
Helle Rude Trolle
Shoal

Stacey Harvey-Brown