

ON DISPLAY

by Lauren Sinner, Surface Design Journal
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19th European Textile Network Conference

Haslach, Austria | gardenofeden2019.org

The European Textile Network (ETN)'s biennial conference will take place at the Textile Centre Haslach (Austria) in late July 2019, bringing together textile creators, artists, instructors, and scientists from all over the world. The ETN is an international association founded with the aim of promoting the cultural exchange between nations and strengthening community spirit through fibers and textiles. Partnering with the Textile Centre Haslach—a multifunctional cooperative where museum, education, and production meet under the roof of an old textile mill—this is sure to be a very thoughtful and exciting conference.

The conference's theme will be *Garden of Eden*, encompassing a wide range of subjects from cultural history to current social issues. The complex theme will be addressed in lectures and

various exhibitions all over the region, with lecturers from all over the world, including Europe, Japan, China, Egypt, South America, and the United States.

Alongside the ETN conference, there will also be a wide variety of textile exhibition throughout the region. Most notable is the show which shares the title of the conference: *Garden of Eden*. This exhibition will show a mixture of juried works, invited artists, and historic textiles installed in the gothic chambers of the Neuhaus castle, overlooking the Danube.

Where Flowers Bloom, a solo exhibition by Austrian artist Tanja Boukal, uses a variety of textile techniques to address human dignity. Boukal's work represents how people's experiences with migration, political questioning, and social exclusions break us down.

7th European Quilt Triennial provides insight into the contemporary European quilting scene through a wide range of techniques, concepts, and themes. Over 40 unique quilts will be displayed, showing the quality, skill, and craft that continues to live on and evolve in the European quilt scene.



Elsbeth Nusser's work as part of the *European Quilt Triennial*.



Gina Ballinger's work as part of the *Art of the Stitch* exhibition.

Before Cotton—Japanese Textiles looks at the fibers, clothing, and materials used in Japan before cotton was readily available. The ingenuity in using wild trees, plants, and other nontraditional fibers creates some of the most interesting fibers in the world—all from the *Gallery Kei* from Kyoto.

From Paradise: Woven and Drawn, a solo exhibition by Swedish-born, Austrian-based tapestry artist Marga Persson gives an insight into Persson's textile and graphic work. Persson has been the head of textile studies at the *Art University Linz* for many years, and this exhibition acts as a retrospective on the influential work she has created.

Art of the Stitch, a solo exhibition by Californian-born, Austria-based artist Gina Ballinger tells personal stories in the forms of small-scale embroideries. Her work is inspired by the writings and scores of the artist Carmen Ramirez, as well as the unique illustrations of her late husband Erich Ballinger.

The conference runs July 28–31, 2019.



Marga Persson's work as part of the *From Paradise: Woven and Drawn* exhibition.



Neuhaus Castle *Garden of Eden* exhibition space. Photo: Textile Kultur Haslach, 2018.



Tanja Boukal's work as part of the *Where Flowers Bloom* exhibition.