

SPOTLIGHT ON GERMANY

THIS FEATURE HAS BEEN LARGELY PREPARED BY ULRIKE WIELAND, VICE CHAIR OF THE DEUTSCHES FILZNETWERK, AND EDITED BY JANINE REES. THIS IS A LITTLE OF THEIR HISTORY.



The German Felt Network was founded in 2005 on the island of Fehmarn, off the Baltic coast of North Germany. The network has developed into a contact for both feltmakers and official organisations, as well as end users of felt products.

In the last thirteen years, Filznetzwerk has organised internationally-recognised travelling felt-art exhibitions, both alone and with institutions from other European countries. Some of the members of the association have added their expertise to establish an official apprenticeship with Journeyman and Masters examinations. The qualified craftspeople call themselves 'Textile Designers in Craft, Specialising in Felting'.

Filznetzwerk has more than three hundred members, offering a forum to exchange on

a larger scale. In their regional groups, they work together in a multi-layered way; they felt together, and research and exchange experiences. The organisation has made contacts with many individual felt artists, groups, museums and institutions around the world, in order to promote the many good properties of felt. Since 2011, members can be tested - on a voluntary, quality assurance basis - for handmade utility felt, with the aim of making the public aware of what standards to look for in good felt.

SUSANNE BREULING



My profession is textile designer in craft, specialising in felt. I first discovered felting over twelve years ago, and studied for two years to become a textile designer. Since 2015, I have been a full time, self employed feltmaker with

my own shop. My work is mainly in the sphere of clothing - accessories, hats, slippers etc. I also work for the interior, including lights and cushions, and use raw wool in my products.

My enthusiasm is for natural wool, which can be transformed into fine, coarse, elastic, robust, monochromatic and colourful felt.

For me, it offers endless design options that capture the moment. This creative design and manufacture of felt gives me a deep sense of contentment and happiness.

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