

GABRIELE WEHRMEYER



My career path started with my training as a florist, followed by agrarian economics and landscape architecture. After

bringing up my children, I have now gone back to my old profession as an engineer in nature conservation. I have always been torn between handicrafts and nature conservation: I need to create things with my hands while focusing on the aesthetics of nature.

During my two year advanced studies at the school for felt design with Wollknoll in Oberrot, I managed to combine my major field of studies. Nature is my guide for creation and I am constantly looking for natural materials to add to my wool.

In form and content, my works often deal with the force of nature which recaptures urban habitats against all odds. I am fascinated by this innate power and the aesthetics of the process.

I have just been exhibiting part of my work, together with a group of women, in the High Five Art Gallery in Baarle-Nassau, Netherlands. This exhibition has already been presented at the VII International Biennale of World Textile Art in Uruguay. Both of these exhibitions were curated by Beatriz Schaaf-Giesser.

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MARIA RADEWAHN



I am a product designer from Berlin. Under my label m Design Handwerk, I design and develop bags and accessories made of

wool felt and other natural materials. My goal is to give wool felt a new, innovative and modern image, to refresh it. It is important to me that this material finds a place in the everyday life of the people. For me, as a designer, it is the material of the future.

While doing my graduation thesis, I got to know the craft of wet felting with sheep's wool. My intention was to incorporate and

update traditional craftsmanship in my work as a designer, to promote these skills and the people behind them. So when I came across the felting craft from a farmer in the South Tyrol, it sparked a passion for wool and its process into felt.

The core essence of my work is to work with craftspeople, their traditions and materials, to combine their knowledge with my contemporary designs. At the same time, I am the interface between designs and crafts; I am the mediator bringing this to the world, with the particular focus on wool felt. In my work, I also incorporate wood - that of the stone pine, native to the Alpine regions - and

leather - German-sourced and vegetable tanned, produced exclusively from animals within the food chain. Each of my products has its own look, character and liveliness, with the emphasis on origins and ethical production. My recent design, in collaboration with Ulrike Wieland, is for a small headphone bag showcasing the use of wool in a very modern object. We are continuing to work together on a new collection, and our collaboration is an inspiring symbiosis on both sides.

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