

TEXTÍLMÍÐSTÖÐ ÍSLANDS

ICELANDIC TEXTILE CENTER

Contents:

- **Hello, World!**
 - **Tracks4Crafts**
 - **Making it Work in Life and Lab**
 - **Ós Residency News**
 - **Coming Up**
-

Hello, World!

We truly enjoy welcoming international students, makers and researchers at the Textile Center. Northwest Iceland is very sparsely populated and our hometown Blönduós has fewer than 1000 inhabitants, so we like it when the world comes to visit!

In January, we hosted students from [University College Copenhagen](#) who spent the month learning about embroidery and the Vatnsdæla Tapestry. In early March, we welcomed students from the [College of the North Atlantic](#) in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Canada for a three-day study visit. The Textile & Apparel Design program, spanning two years and with multiple campuses across the province, is headquartered in St. John's. The visiting group comprised second-year students embarking on their final projects. In Blönduós, they attended knitting and spinning classes, learned about the history of textiles in Iceland and visited a sheep farm, the Ístex wool washery and the Textile Museum.

At the end of May, we will host a **study group from Minneapolis** for a similar program, and in June, the [Iceland Field School](#) — a transdisciplinary university credit course designed by Dr. Kathleen Vaughan of Concordia University in Montreal — will return to the Textile Center for the third time.

Artists-in-residence traveled to Blönduós from the Netherlands, Canada, Finland, Sweden, the US and Germany this winter, and we look forward to welcoming artists from the UK, New Zealand, Ireland, India, Japan, Australia, Mexico and Taiwan later this year.

Welcome to Austur-Húnavatnssýsla, world!



Students from the College of the North Atlantic at the start of their knitting class (left). Students from University College Copenhagen stenciling for the Vatnsdæla Tapestry (right).

Tracks4Crafts

[Tracks4Crafts](#), the Horizon 2022 funded European collaboration we are a part of, is well underway. We submitted our Operational Plan and participated in online meetings and webinars on building, transmitting and supporting crafts knowledge. The Blönduós pilot will focus on traditional handcraft techniques such as knitting and embroidery. We aim to raise awareness of the opportunities within textiles presented by local production and explore how handcraft heritage connects new technologies and materials.

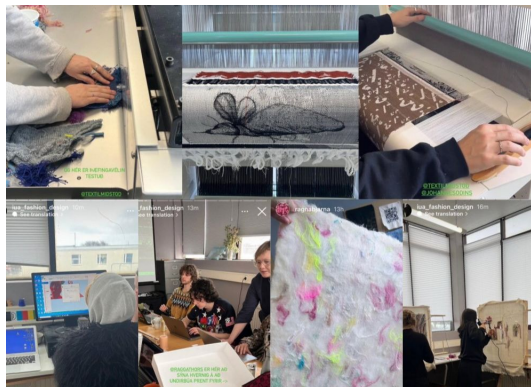
Next on our to-do list is developing workshops and preparing for the annual meeting in Amsterdam at the end of May. We'll keep you posted.

Making it Work - in Life and Lab

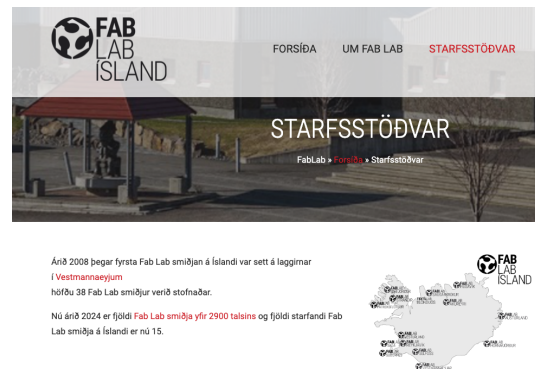
We know we always have a lot going on, but the Textile Center is actually a very small (non-profit) institution with 6 staff members only (3.5 full-time equivalents). We receive funding from the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation but still very much depend on project and research grants to sustain the center and its activities. This means that we aren't always able to run things as smoothly and efficiently as we'd like. In the **TextileLab**, for one.

The TextileLab was established within the framework of the European collaboration [CENTRINNO](#). The project just ended, but the lab will go on - funding permitting! There's been a lot of interest in the space and its special equipment. The felt loom, digital embroidery machine and Kniterate, in particular. In April, we welcomed second-year fashion design students from the Iceland University of the Arts ([Listaháskóli](#)) for a week-long study visit. Groups from schools and craft associations request field trips, also on weekends, and makers and artists-in-residence want access as much as possible. That said, it's important to note that we do not have an instructor on-site 24/7, and at times, an instructor may not be available at all. So the lab's opening hours vary —for now.

We hope to be able to employ a full-time lab manager (and assistants) long term sooner rather than later. At this point in time, however, we (and our visitors) just have to bear in mind that we're doing the best we can and it's all about making things work!



Listaháskóli students in the TextileLab.



Our lab is a part of the FabLab Iceland network.

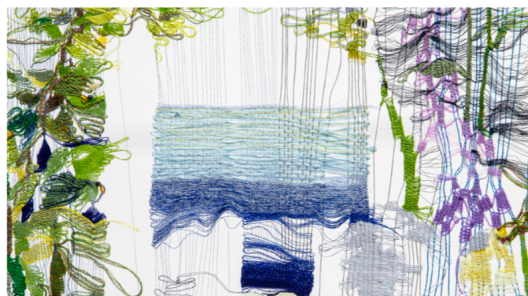
Ós Residency News

We're well into 2024 and the Ós residency is abuzz with makers from all corners of the globe. But now it is time to look back reflect. We proudly present: The Ós Residency Catalog 2023. Showcasing the work and stories of 62 of our artists-in-residence—we're continually amazed by the talent of those who come to stay and create with us. Take a look and see for yourself! The catalog is available for print-on-demand through [Blurb](#).

In other updates, due to cancellations, we now have Tc2 residencies available both in August and September. This is a rare occurrence, so if you're an experienced digital loom weaver seeking the opportunity to have a Tc2 loom all to yourself for an entire month, consider applying via the [application form on our website](#).



Icelandic Textile Center
Ós Residency Catalog

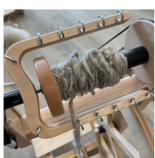
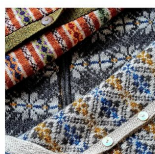


Two Tc2 residencies are now available in 2024!

Jacqueline Qiu "Still" (detail), photo by Alli Miller

Coming Up!

It's that time of year again - Prjónagleði, the Iceland Knit Fest is just around the corner. This year, the festival is a collaboration with Húnabyggð municipality, and for our part, the Icelandic Textile Center will be focusing on handcraft classes and a knitting competition (with an electronic textile twist!) within the framework of Tracks4Crafts. The Knit Fest will be held June 7 - 9 in Blönduós. You can still [sign up for some classes online!](#)



NÁMSKEIÐIN
ERU KOMIN Í
SÖLU Á
NETINU



TRACKS4CRAFTS

... and this is it! We'll be back with more news and updates in the fall.



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

