

PRESS RELEASE

EXPERIMENTAL MATERIALS AND TEXTILES

Presentation of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (UMPRUM) at the London Design Festival 2016

Date of the event: 17 –25 Sept. 2016

London Design Festival - 3 Cromwell Place, Basement

Open: Saturday 17 Sept. – Wednesday 21 Sept. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. / Thursday 22 Sept. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. / Friday 23 Sept. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. / Saturday 24 Sept. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. / Sunday 25 Sept. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The presentation of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (UMPRUM) at the London Design Festival is becoming a tradition. This year it will take place for the third time, and the Academy will present the work of the Studio of Textile Design and its experimental approaches.

The exhibition of the Studio of Textile Design will be held in the Brompton Design District, which is known for its inventive and innovative programme during the London Design Festival. The exhibition "Experimental Materials and Textiles" presented by the Studio of Textile Design will be in this same spirit. The head of the Studio, Jitka Škopová, has been exploring the possibilities and boundaries of textiles for several years. "The main idea of our project is to use what surrounds us. We explore the properties of the materials that make up the world around us. We perceive their hardness and flexibility, suppleness, fragility, and stability. We also ask questions – do we acquire or conquer?" says Jitka Škopová, explaining the approach of her students. In addition to perceiving the properties of the materials used, the students also study their relationship with nature, sustainability, and ecology. They look for balance and respect the relations within the context of the entire system.

For their creations, the young designers use not only modern technologies and approaches, but also look for new materials and processing methods. This can be seen in the "Water Flea" project by Miroslava Vokounová, which addresses the removal of algae and surface impurities in stagnant waters. The author, inspired by the root systems of aquatic plants that naturally absorb dirt, simulates this natural system with bio-plastic fibres. Amálie Koppová deals with the issue of water purification in her work "Coalit", which combines active charcoal with antibacterial silver and an energising crystal. Eliška Hlavačková was inspired by the structure of wood. Her work, "Wood Defects", uses an imperfect tree cavity as a mould for a variety of materials. Each moulding has the unique imprint of the inner structure. Ondřej Trnka takes another approach in his project "Burnout Fibres". By burning textile fibres in concrete, he creates new structural surfaces ideal for attaching mosses and plants. In this way, he changes the usual processing procedure of concrete cast into a mould.

The exhibition "Experimental Materials and Textiles" proves that even traditional materials used for thousands of years are not limited only to their original function but can still be used to explore new frontiers. "A textile is the arrangement of any suitable matter into an appropriate planar or spatial pattern. A textile is, in principle, a functional product. But there are functions that need to be discovered for such a product! In the Studio of Textile Design, headed by Jitka Škopová, we are witnessing how beautiful free experimentation, sensitive perception and hard-earned exploration can be," says the rector of the Academy, Jindřich Smetana, explaining why the Academy has focused on this field of study and the Studio of Textile Design for this year's London Design Festival.

List of exhibitors:

Eliška Hlavačková / "Pumpkin", "Wood Defects"

Kateřina Haderková / "Hydrangea"

Mirka Vokounová / "Water Flea"

Alžběta Hnízdilová / "Resin"

Ondřej Trnka / "Burnout Fibres"

Pavla Nosková / "Peat"

Lucie Miklášová / "Shells"

Amálie Koppová / "Coalit"
Alžběta Prouzová / "Bark"
Zuzana Ševčíková / "Polypore"
Alžběta Kováčiková / "Cyanotype"
Kristína Dúhová / "Salt", "Silicone"

Curator of the exhibition: Jitka Škopová
Architectural design: Jitka Škopová
Graphics: Jakub Samek
Production: Michaela Kapláňková

About the Studio of Textile Design

The Studio of Textile Design promotes comprehensive education for textile designers to help them combine multiple disciplines and explore new fields of study that they need in their work. The assignments include tasks focused on traditional processing of textiles and designs, while allowing complete freedom of access. The aim of teaching is to cross theoretical boundaries toward the practice with all its aspects – technological characteristics, trends, relations to the market, the economics of design, the feasibility of projects, etc. Students not only create aesthetically valuable designs, but also use their knowledge and approach to become full-blown partners for research institutes and innovative textile manufacturers using modern technologies.

About the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (UMPRUM)

The Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague (UMPRUM) was founded in 1885. Throughout its existence, it has been one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the Czech Republic. This can be seen in the number of successful graduates who establish themselves as respected professionals with international prestige. The school is divided into six departments – Architecture, Design, Free Art, Applied Art, Graphics, and Theory and History of Art. Each department is subdivided into studios according to their professional specialisation, headed by eminent artists. Each year, the Academy organises at least eight major exhibitions in the Czech Republic and eight exhibitions abroad.

About Brompton Design District

The Brompton Design District is a partnership between leading international brands, much loved independent retailers, neighbourhood restaurants and cultural institutions. Initiated by South Kensington Estates, a company with a history woven into the fabric of the district for over 200 years, these businesses joined forces in 2006 with a view to revitalise the heritage of the area. The aim is to create a place where people come together to share, enjoy and learn about design in its broadest sense—design, culture, fashion and food.

During the London Design Festival, Brompton hosts a programme of temporary design exhibitions in vacant spaces curated by Jane Withers. 2016 is the 10th anniversary of this programme and the theme for this year is transformation. Brompton celebrates with a special installation and event called the Brompton Cocktail at the garage, 1 North Terrace with Arabeschi di Latte and Brompton's alumni of designers.

www.bromptondesigndistrict.com

More information:

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UMPRUM
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Academy of Arts
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**BROMPTON
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