

# Judy-Ann Moule: Not just a visitor

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One of the reasons to apply for a residency in Textílsetur is to engage in other cultures and other people. To **Judy-Ann Moule**, one of the artists staying at the centre in May, this is a personal and artistic priority. Being an Australian, she lives and works in Kuwait at the moment, her work is created by using hand-dyed Afghanistan yarns and an old Turkish double-knot weaving technique – and being in Iceland, the intention is to incorporate some of the old Nordic Runes in her work.



Judy-Ann Moule working in the weaving studio of the Textílsetur. Photo by Lars Pryds

By combining these elements of many nationalities, Judy-Ann Moule explores the communication between the different cultures.

“I usually work with installations, but really I am interested in cultures and societies,” she says, “in preserving the old traditions and techniques of these cultures”. No matter where she travels she seeks out the special characteristics of the location and tries to learn the special skills of the area. She always tries to become part of the local community, whether in Iceland or in Kuwait – “I don’t want to be a visitor,”

as she says.

Learning to work with the traditional craft or technique is not a goal in itself for Judy-Ann Moule. “I want to question the things we take for granted”, she says, and she does this by taking well-known objects and altering them in surprisingly new ways.

The creative component of the research project for Judy-Ann Moule's MA thesis (2012) was a large exhibition of her own object-based installations – among others everyday objects like toys, chairs and a steel bed. The familiar objects were altered in different ways, e.g. in the work “Sea of Legs” where a number of girls' tights were stretched into unusual form and shape “...in an attempt to overwhelm the viewer and to mimic a child's perspective when confronted by a vast array of legs”.



Judy-Ann Moule, Sea of legs (in progress), (2011), mixed media, dimensions variable, Photo by Carl Warner

The work Judy-Ann Moule has begun here in Blönduós is a return to textile art which was her main focus for more than twenty years. But it will probably not end here:

“I'm in no hurry to finish this piece. I'm thinking I might paint text over the wool pile, in this way changing the traditional technique into something new. This is my plan but it probably will change along the way.”

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Judy-Ann Moule's website is at [www.judy-annmoule.com](http://www.judy-annmoule.com) and her MA (Research) thesis, “The silence of objects: forming the unsayable” (2012) submitted to the Queensland University of Technology in 2012 is available at this link: [eprints.qut.edu.au/53098/1/Judy-Ann\\_Moule\\_Thesis.pdf](http://eprints.qut.edu.au/53098/1/Judy-Ann_Moule_Thesis.pdf) )



Judy-Ann Moule cutting hand-dyed yarn from Afghanistan in lengths to fit in the weave. Photo by Lars Pryds



Judy-Ann Moule working in the sun in the weaving studio of the Textilsetur. Photo by Lars Pryds

Tags: artist, Judy-Ann Moule