

Textiles, textiles – and books, books

May 13, 2014 · by [Lars Pryds](#) · in [Residency](#)

Textiles and books have always been the two most important things in the professional life of Lisbeth Tolstrup, Denmark. A weaver educated at the School of Arts and Crafts in Kolding, she also holds a BA in Art History, an MA in education and is currently studying for an MA in Art History. She has written or edited several books about knitting, handicraft, and textile art, as well as being a freelance art critic. Since 2009 she is the owner of TEX-antik – an online second-hand bookshop specializing in textiles and handicraft.

Over the years, she has developed her own art in the fields of textile installations, mini-textiles, and collage which has been exhibited in Denmark, Australia, Spain, Hungary, a.o. She is deeply interested in the history of modern textile art – not least in the role it plays in comparison to more well-established art genres like painting and sculpture.



Lisbeth Tolstrup: "Mythical Jars", 2013. Mixed media, each ca. 6x6x6 cm.

In May, she is one of the interns at the Textílsetur. And textiles and books is also what she will pack in her bag when she will be leaving Iceland at the end of May.

"I am really grateful for the opportunity to intern here and I have been looking forward to it for a long time," she says.

"I hope I will be able to both gain something and to give something back to

the Center and the Icelandic textile community. I would like to mention three personal focus points I have identified here. The first: Inspired by some of the historic objects in Kvennaskolinn's collection I have begun a new series of mini-textiles."

"Second, I am researching for a paper I am writing about textile expression in the European neo-avant-garde. And the third – I'm developing new knitting designs in Icelandic wool – among others for my next book which will be published in September. In all three cases, it's very inspiring to work in the nature that surrounds Blönduós," she says.

One of Lisbeth's initiatives at the Textílsetur is the 'Open Textile Day' – which will take place on the 24th of May. On this day, all institutions in Kvennaskolinn will open their doors to the public. Hopefully many people will come to see what the artists in residence are working with in the studios and get to know more about the activities and the proud history of Kvennaskolinn.

Lisbeth Tolstrup's website is at lisbethtolstrup.com and her bookshop is at tex-antik.com



Lisbeth Tolstrup knitting in the studio at the Textílsetur in Blönduós. Photo by Lars Pryds

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