

TEXTÍLMÍÐSTÖÐ ÍSLANDS

ICELANDIC TEXTILE CENTER

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Digital Collaboration

The coronavirus pandemic has brought about many changes, from collaborating digitally and skill sharing to accessing knowledge and creativity online. We have learned a lot during this past year and made good use of web conferencing tools, hosting the online idea and innovation competition "Ullarþon" and participating in bi-weekly meetings and training sessions with our CENTRINNO colleagues in Barcelona, Amsterdam, Geneva, Tallin, Copenhagen, Paris, Milan and Zagreb.

That said, technology can not replace human interaction, and we do look forward to meeting everyone in person eventually. We are also pretty excited about the Textile Residency coming back to life this summer (fingers crossed!), and upcoming on-site events, such as the Ullarþon award ceremony on May 20, and the formal opening of our TextileLab in Blönduós the following day. More info below!

Ullarþon - Wool Marathon

Ullarþon was an **Icelandic wool-themed idea/invention competition** ("ull" is the Icelandic word for wool) hosted by us, the Icelandic Textile Center, in

collaboration with Innovation Center Iceland. The project is intended to support sustainable wool innovation and product development in Iceland and help increase the value of Icelandic wool. It was funded by the Agricultural Productivity Fund.

The competition itself was held **online March 25 - 29, 2021. Over 100 participants submitted 63 ideas ("solutions") in four different categories ("challenges")**: Utilizing unprocessed wool; wool mixes and blends; product innovation; digital solutions and traceability.

The award ceremony will take place on May 20 during the annual Icelandic design festival [DesignMarch](#) in Reykjavík, with Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, the president of Iceland, presenting the awards to the top team in each category. Prizes include ISK 400.000 for each winning team, gifts from Ístex wool factory, and a stay at Hallormsstaður School in East Iceland to further develop ideas.

During the week before the award ceremony, we will show a selection of video shorts submitted by teams on the [Ullarþon Facebook page](#). There are some really great ideas - take a look!



"Do you have a wool idea?" The Ullarþon idea competition was held online March 25 - 29.

Winners will be announced on May 20 during DesignMarch in Reykjavík.

CENTRINNO: Formal Opening of the TextileLab

The Textile Center, in collaboration with the University of Iceland, is participating in the European project **CENTRINNO** under the research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The project aims to revitalise once thriving industrial areas using cultural heritage as its inspiration. Partnering institutions and organisations come from Paris, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Zagreb, Tallinn, Geneva, Amsterdam and Milan.

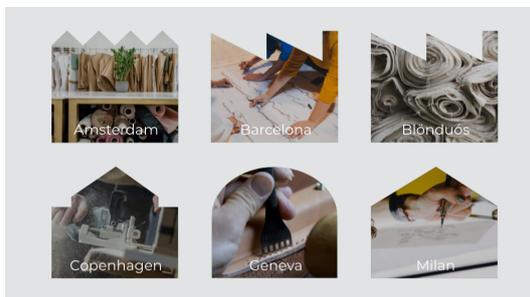
The 3 1/2 year project started in September 2020. Since then, we've been busy attending bi-weekly online meetings and training sessions and preparing the

opening of the TextileLab in Blönduós. The Lab, largely funded with a grant from the Icelandic Infrastructure Fund, will feature state-of-the-art digital equipment for textile designers, makers, artists and scholars, including a felt loom, knitting machine and digital loom for sampling and prototyping.

We have no doubt that good research infrastructure will accelerate the introduction of new technology in textiles in Iceland, and greatly increase opportunities for design and production of new products using natural resources, such as Icelandic wool. In the future, we would also like to offer access to lab facilities suitable for working with biotextiles, and to this end we recently submitted an application to the Lóa Innovation Fund along with collaborators including the marine biotechnology company BioPol in Skagaströnd.

The formal opening of the TextileLab will be held in Blönduós, Þverbraut 1, during [DesignMarch 2021](#) on Friday, May 21 (12:00 - 20:00). If you are not able to join us for the open house, you can find us on social media where we will be posting updates and videos (Instagram: [@textilmidstod](#) / Facebook: [Icelandic Textile Center](#))

For more info on CENTRINNO, visit the project website: [centrinno.eu](#)



CENTRINNO

Residency News

It has been a quiet couple of months at the residency, with the last group of artists leaving in November 2020. Now Drífa Líftóra and Ragnheiður Stefánsdóttir from Iceland are staying with us, as well as our current Nordic-Baltic scholarship recipient [Søren Krag](#) from Denmark, who will be working on the Tc2 digital loom until the end of May. On April 16, we invited the artists staying at the NES residency in Skagaströnd for a joint artist talk - great fun, we should do that more often! Speaking of NES, we thought it would be nice if our residency also had a proper name. Have you got a good idea? Send us an email: residency@textilecenter.is

We look forward to busy summer and autumn months: Covid-19 and travel restrictions permitting, we are expecting textile artists from Mexico, Chile, Canada, the USA, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands. If you are planning to come to Iceland, make sure to read up on rules and regulations on entry to the country on covid.is and the website of the [Icelandic Tourist Board](#) as they change frequently and often with little notice!

Nordic-Baltic scholarships in 2021 / 2022 were awarded to Austė Jurgelionytė-Varnė from Lithuania and Heidi Pietarinen from Finland. They are our fifth and sixth - and final - scholarship recipients; the program funded via the [Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme](#) will end in February 2022.

In other exciting news, the annual Art Residency Catalog, 2020 edition, will be ready for download and print-on-demand on [ISSUU](#) and [Blurb](#) in a matter of days.

If you are interested in the residency program, we accept **applications from textile artists and scholars all year round (open call)**. Visit us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) (Icelandic Textile Center / Textíllistamiðstöð).



NORDIC-BALTIC MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Culture



Coming Up!

DesignMarch

The Icelandic Textile Center will be hosting two events at DesignMarch this year: The award ceremony for winners of "Ullarþon" at the Textile Association's exhibition in Hafnatorg on May 20, and the formal opening of the TextileLab in Blönduós on May 21. Visit designmarch.is for more details on the festival!

Textile Tourism

There is also a number of textile & cultural tourism related projects we are working on: "Wool Walks and Workshops", a NORA collaboration with Greenland, Norway and the Faroe Islands; "Sól í Sveit" (= "Sun in the Countryside"), a collaboration with Húnavatnshreppur district; and "Fiber

Focus", an exchange program for artists and makers in Iceland and Norway. Watch this space :)

Prjónagleði 2021

Preparations for the Iceland Knit Fest 2021 are in full swing, and you can now buy tickets for a great new selection of (note: mostly Icelandic) workshops and lectures [on our website](#). The festival will be held **June 11 - 13**. Follow [Iceland Knit Fest on Facebook](#) and Instagram #icelandknitfest for news and updates.



There are many great new workshops and lectures to choose from during Prjónagleði - the Iceland Knit Fest in 2021! Images clockwise: "Ég og Stephen West" (Linda Eiríksdóttir); "Felting" (Elísabet Jóhannsdóttir Jörensen); "Natural dyes" (Pyrey Hlífarsdóttir); "Skotthúfa frú Auðar" (Guðný M. Höskuldsdóttir & Þórdís H. Sigmarsdóttir).

**We will be back with more news in the fall.
Stay safe, everyone, and take care!**



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