

# TEXTILES

## IN ARTISTIC CREATION

**Contextile 2012:** An exhibition of contemporary art features textiles as a reference element for research, reflection and creation.

[www.contextile.wordpress.com](http://www.contextile.wordpress.com)

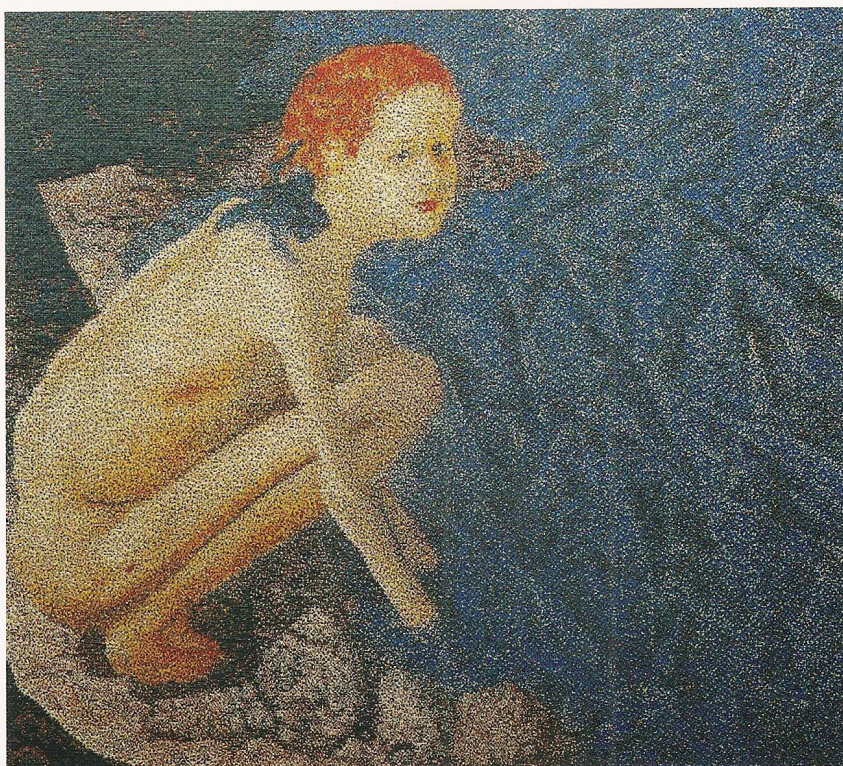
In the city of Guimarães the past is preserved, but with a vision of modernity that sets it apart as the 2012 European Capital of Culture. Creativity and history come together in a year in which creators and creations bring yet more energy to an already vibrant city. As art comes in so many forms, materials and guises, the first Contemporary Textile Art Triennial – Contextile 2012 – is to be held between 1 September and 14 October in the city. This international contemporary art fair and exhibition uses textiles as elements of reflection, research and creation,

through a variety of forms of artistic expression. The initiative aims to give greater visibility to Textile Art, and to mobilize and inspire artists to take experimental and innovative approaches to the visual arts. It is also a creative platform to promote debate on ideas and projects, offering a space to develop international networks, as well as to exchange positive interdisciplinary and academic practices.

With close ties to long-standing textile traditions, this Triennial is an eclectic space that will stimulate dialogue between artists,







PREVIOUS Jenine Shereos

ABOVE LEFT Ambar O'Harrow

ABOVE Rewind Story, History Exhibition Collection

LEFT Saverah Malik

creators, the community and the city that hosts it, contributing to the diversification of the economy and of creative and cultural industries. Here one can see the work of a new generation of artists who have turned to alternative supports and formats and who reflect the diversity of modern-day artistic practices, thus paving the way for a greater valorisation of Textile Art.

The Contemporary Textile Art Triennial is promoted and funded by GUIMARÃES 2012 – ECC and co-funded by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Culture / General-Directorate for the Arts. The concept and production are the responsibility of the non-profit cooperative group Ideias Emergentes, founded in 2004. The aim of the group is to promote and produce artistic activities that contribute to stimulating and strengthening cultural dynamics. It is a member of the ETN – the European Textile Network, and it is working in close partnership with the Kaunas Biennial on the production and programming of the Triennial. This inaugural Triennial will offer a balanced programme integrated with the European Capital of Culture schedule, which

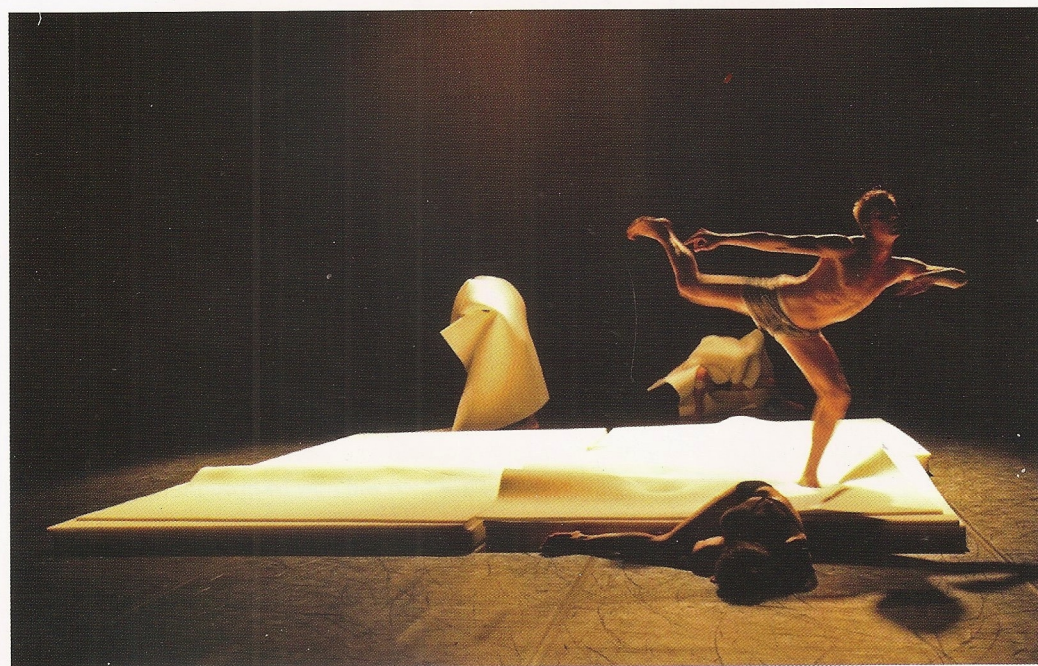
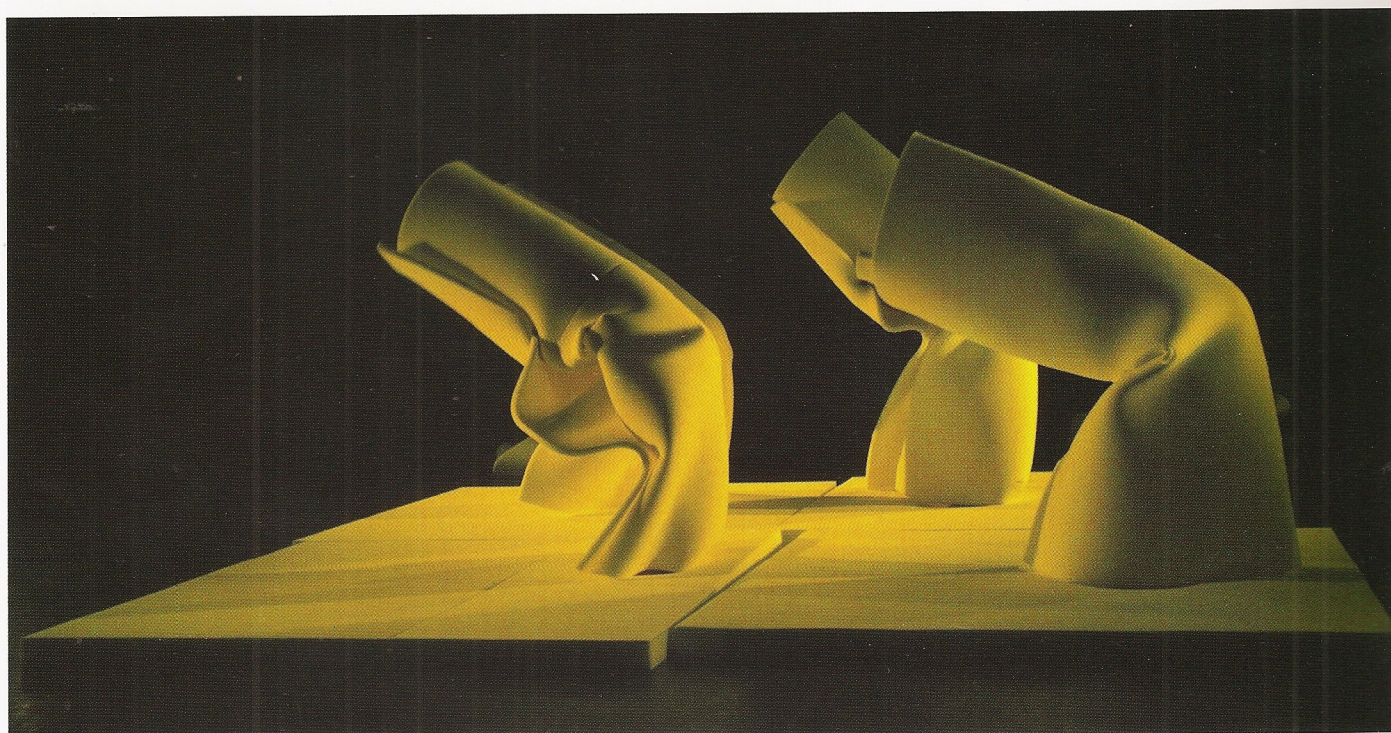
has events in several areas of the city, bringing together exhibitions, workshops, conferences and public art interventions. One of the initiatives will take place between 1 July and 30 August and will involve artists in residence. To promote and regenerate the traditional Guimarães Embroidery and to highlight new textile languages and applications, Contextile will welcome guest artists to develop their project in conjunction with local artisans. Another residence project "IN FACTORY" aims to forge and integrate the textile industry with the Triennial, and to show its connection with contemporary art. This initiative will be held in Guimarães from 1 September to 14 October. A multidisciplinary jury has selected 53 artists and works from over 20 countries throughout the world, which will now be brought together in this international exhibition and textile art competition. It will comprise works of art on different supports and scales, and will promote creativity and artistic freedom, enabling a configuration of works that relate and blend new languages and media, with textiles as the focal element. "Rewind History" is an exhibition



that is the result of a challenge set by the Kaunas Biennial to the curator Rasa Andriūšyte-Žukienė: to organize a show combining a technological starting point (works made using a computerized Jacquard loom) and theme (historical perspective), based on classical works reproduced in textile art by around 16 Lithuanian artists. The range of artistic form is seen throughout; one example is the interdisciplinary performance spectacle "4 million", by the choreographer Ne Barros (Porto) and the artist Patricija Gilytė (Kaunas). Also noteworthy is the show by Gisela Santi, an artist of Italian origin who graduated in Mural Painting from the Venice School of Arts. The involvement of the textile industry in the Triennial is considerable, but it is tempered with creative and design angles. The exhibition showcases a manu-

facturing inheritance that is organized, set up and presented as artwork, which may contribute to revitalising the image of this industry that is so important to the Guimarães region.

In a world where creativity is seen as an added bonus, it is important to stimulate debate, and therefore Contextile 2012, in partnership with Lala de Dios (President of the European Textile Network), will also be holding the conference "Contemporary Textile Art: What Perspectives?" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. Textile artists, producers and academics will form the panel of speakers at this joint event, which will guide one through the artistic world of the long Portuguese tradition of textile craft and manufacturing, and will lead to consideration of its role in new creative contexts. ■



ABOVE & LEFT 4 Million