



Textile Research Centre Newsletter: January 2015

TRC Exhibition: *Textile Visions from Egypt*

The TRC activities for 2015 started with the official opening of the beautiful, and above all extremely colourful TRC Gallery exhibition *Textile Visions from Egypt*, on Sunday 4th January. The exhibition shows a large number of appliqué, in all sizes, very simple and very intricate, from the Street of the Tentmakers in Cairo. Here, in a 17th century complex of buildings in the old centre of the town, craftsmen still follow a tradition that goes back to at least the time of the ancient Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun (who died in c. 1323 BC). The new TRC exhibition includes historical and technical information as well as a very wide range of appliqué panels with traditional geometric designs, intricate Arabic calligraphy, ancient Egyptian tomb scenes, modern lotus designs, as well as birds, fishes, landscapes and folk stories. In fact, all aspects of traditional Egyptian life.



The exhibition is open to the general public, free of charge, during the normal opening hours of the TRC (Monday to Thursday, 10.00 - 16.00).

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, there are guided tours of the exhibition, starting 14.00 and lasting about one hour. Costs: 7.50 euro. Registration beforehand is not necessary.

Wednesday morning workshop, 10.00 – 13.00: Appliqués and patchwork from Egypt 28th January 2015

As part of the TRC's Street of the Tentmakers exhibition, the TRC's Wednesday Workshop on 28 January will be about the history and use of appliqué and patchwork in ancient, medieval and modern Egypt. The workshop will look at various techniques, including the appliqué techniques used in ancient Egypt (based on items from the tomb of Tutankhamun), the patchwork techniques used in medieval Egypt, especially by the Mamluks (c. 1400 AD), and, of course, the appliqué techniques currently used by the craftsmen of the Street of the Tentmakers.

The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation about the history of appliqué and patchwork in Egypt, a guided tour of the exhibition with an emphasis on the techniques that are being used, and of course the chance for the participants to experiment with these techniques themselves. The participants will have the choice of three levels of appliqué and/or patchwork to try out: Simple (Mamluk inlay patchwork); Medium (Street of the Tentmakers appliqué; large scale, using cotton); and

Difficult (Tutankhamun style appliqué; small scale, using linen). Participants do NOT need to have any previous experience in making appliqués and patchwork, but those who do, they may try out the Tutankhamun appliqué!

The workshop will be given by Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director of the TRC and curator of the exhibition. The language of communication is Dutch (and English if required).

Time: 10.00 - 13.00. Costs: 25 euro's including materials and tea/coffee. Participants: maximum of 15 people. There are some places left. Please register as soon as possible at info@trc-leiden.nl and indicate which level of work you would like to try out.

Five-Day TRC Intensive Textile Courses, 16-20 March and 18-22 May 2015

Between 16 and 20 March, 2015, the TRC organises again its acclaimed five-day intensive course on textiles and textile production. The course, which is being given in English, looks at the processes of making a piece of cloth, from the raw fibres to the end product. The participants learn about the theory and practice of fibre identification, spinning, dyeing, weaving, and decorative techniques including printing and embroidery. The course is practically orientated and the students are encouraged to try out the wide range of techniques that are being discussed. This means that they will use microscopes and staining techniques for fibre identification. They are introduced, and asked to use, a wide variety of hand spindles and spinning wheels. They also apply natural dye stuffs and mordants to produce dozens of different colours. Students may bring pieces of textiles that they would like to discuss during the course. Please register well in advance (info@trc-leiden.nl).

The course is given by Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC. It will be repeated **between 18-22 May 2015**. The fees for a full week of tuition are 550 euros. The group of participants is always limited to eight, in order to guarantee the greatest benefits to those attending.

TRC Needles

The first stage of the new digital TRC encyclopaedia of decorative needlework (appropriately called TRC Needles), although still 'work in progress', has now been put on line with more than 1100 entries. Enjoy ! [Please click here](#)

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The TRC is building up a thriving and colourful Facebook community. You can read brief and up-to-date items about the TRC and other textile and dress related subjects. Subscribe with 'like', and automatically receive all the new information in your own Facebook account.

