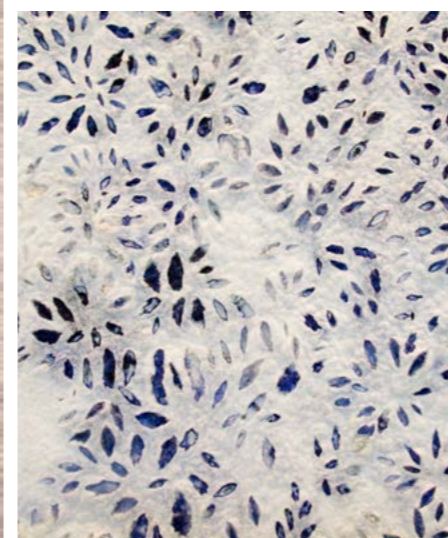




LINDA DEZIJN
**FROM
 UNCONSCIOUSNESS
 TO AWAKENING**



LINDA DEZIJN IS FORTY-FIVE YEARS OLD, AND LIVES IN HEERDE, IN THE NETHERLANDS. IN THIS ARTICLE, LINDA SHARES WITH US THE INSPIRATION AND ENERGY THAT IS INTRINSIC TO HER FELT MAKING.

In my youth, I was all over the place, with no holds barred. I had boundless energy, and this enthusiasm affected everything I did. In addition to playing with other kids, I was always working on arts and crafts, and my creativity was greatly encouraged at primary school by an inspiring teacher who interlaced his lessons with an enormous diversity of creative assignments. I knew as a child that I wanted to be as inspirational as he was, and this knowledge forged the beginning of my creative career. After leaving school, I trained as a teacher in primary education and worked as such for many years, before developing myself further in visual arts and inner awareness.

In 2001, I discovered the world of felt, and working with it became an addiction. After years of standing in front of a class of primary students, I decided in 2005 to leave teaching and focus on working as a professional felt

artist, based in my own studio.

I gain much inspiration from nature. The fascinating and complex forms I see during my daily walks in the woods with my Dutch sheep-dog Beppie are often the subliminal spark that ignites my new work. I start 'just anything', without a set plan, adding colours and materials, and working continuously until an image emerges.

Through the process of free creation, my object develops into a work of art in which a part of me is visible. I 'read' my image, 'playing' and 'moving' with it, following whatever I discover. Working from my emotions means that anything is possible. And to create the necessary space for this is very important to me. I give the creative process the lead, allowing opportunities for change and encouraging movement in my work.

When I am in the process of feltmaking, I am experiencing passion, fire and ambition. My unconsciousness transforms into the inexhaustible source of awareness. I am in total connection with myself. This is freedom for me!

Colours are a very important means by which to express myself. I don't have a favourite colour to work with, as all colors are beautiful and I use them to match my feelings. Blue is a colour that I have worked with in the past, but it has not been a dominant theme. 18 months ago, I realised that the colour blue is reflected more as an undertone in my work.

Unconsciously, I have followed my feelings and, in retrospect, I can recognise patterns. My work has become lighter, more open and transparent. An awareness has developed in my everyday life, and I am more concerned with the search for freedom and in finding

the courage to put myself in the centre of my work.

The piece 'To Be' is a very good example of this. I used basic silk organza 2.8, which has good transparency, and worked with fine Merino wool, angora and pieces of Wensleydale fleece dyed in very soft tones of blue. Despite the piece being finished, I wasn't satisfied with it until, one day, a piece of silk organza fabric floated down to lie over the pieces of felted fleece, and this accidental composition formed a new and pleasingly diffused image. This is what I wanted to see. I then picked up a new piece of organza and felted a circle of angora into the middle of the piece. I wanted to retain this part so I then returned to the foreground. Scraps of fabric were laid together, and as I played with it, I wrote in words that came to mind. These words guided me to develop the image further. Shiny beads were then added into the white circle. The scraps and fleece began to hang away from each other, forming space in between them. I was looking

through a screen to the world that lay behind it, with the lap in front, radiating from the circle of angora and shiny beads. When the image met my expectations, more words were added and deleted. Image and text complemented each other:

**TO BE
 I live,
 I am,
 I maybe,
 valuable
 fully,
 beautiful,
 free,
 in being,
 to be,
 to be,
 TO BE!**

The color blue, for me, represents clarity, openness, transparency, peace, silence and truth. There is a natural flow. The pieces of

work I have made over the past 18 months are focused on these themes. It's about a quest from the inside out, investigating who you are. The theme, 'Be honest with yourself. Be yourself and bring your honesty out into the open' was central to my exhibition in MDF The Heerd, and indeed, in addition to other colours, there was much 'blue' to be seen throughout this exhibition.

For me, felt is the most beautiful material to work with. There are no materials like wool and silk in which beautiful colours can be so truly reflected. With felted wool, I can use both two-dimensional and three-dimensional elements in my work. It is possible for it to be transparent, but also very solid and sturdy. Felt is so very versatile, and lends itself to express my feelings powerfully.

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