

Everyday Sensappeal

CAROLINE ÖSTLUND/HV



From the left:

Nini Maakestad
Eva Mendel
Jennie Jakobsson
Sofia Starborg
Lina Kac
Julia Kåsjö
Shamiran Adam
Suha Ayal
Lea Constan
Magnus Norpan Eriksson
In the front, Sigrid Daregård

All eleven handtowels are on the wall behind.

Details of the handtowels:

Top right

Feathers, Sofia Starborg.

Below from the left

East Meets West, Suha Ayal.

Meta, Lina Kac.

Rally Clouds Nini Maakestad (and page 3).

SEEN

Eleven handtowels, eleven different designs. Students in their final year of the Advanced Textile Handicraft Diploma course produced the designs; Klässbols Linen Weaving Mill wove the goods. This is the first time there has been a working partnership of this kind on that course and now, after studying damask technique with senior tutor Elisabeth Isaksson, design process and economy with Johanna Asshoff, designing with Kim Halle and two visits to Klässbols Linen Weaving Mill, the towels are now retail ready.

Translating a pattern into one that can be factory woven involves some compromises and a lot of possibilities. Students clearly used their handweaving skills to bring out different patterns and effects in impressive ways.

We met Elisabeth Isaksson and three of the 11 students in the weaving room at HV.

Suha Ayal had discovered a circle pattern in Uppsala Cathedral. Similar patterns can be found in Islamic culture in Iraq, where she grew up. Her design was called *East Meets West*. An elegant piece of writing from 1740 had struck her, some lines from a Swedish book, *The Tale about the Horse*, by Olof von Dalin. Text is often sacred in Islamic culture, but what is sacred for me, she asked herself in choosing this particular text. Her father is a writer and she is herself an archaeologist.

Nini Maakestad's handtowel is called *Rallymoln* (Rally Clouds). She often draws clouds and likes doing so, then reworks them in

WeavePoint with repeats. Colours are chosen from a given range. An eight-shaft satin was then used for weaving the towel at breakneck speed: 3 handtowels side by side could, when all was going smoothly, be woven in 3–4 minutes.

Lina Kac's handtowel, *Meta*, is in point twill. Its composition was based on a photo of a black-white Carl Malmsten handtowel in point twill.

After Urban Johansson at Klässbols Linen Weaving Mill had said that everything was possible, Sofia Starborg took him at his word. Her handtowels with bird feather designs initially drawn by hand were then woven up in 16 different weave structures!

Strong personalities and technical refinements were also evident

in the other handtowels as well.

What has this collaboration meant for Klässbols Linen Weaving Mill, we asked Urban Johansson:

– One can easily become blind to what one normally does. Right now most of our work is in 5 shaft and 8 shaft satin. We have been spurred on to new things with all this, which has been great! And someone, perhaps, will get interested in working with industry!

From Thursday week 8 to Sunday week 12 this unique handtowel collection will be on sale at Designtorget, Götgatsbacken in Stockholm.

The handtowels will be available from week 8 and for 3 months from the Designtorget webshop:

designtorget.se