

## “Weavings with a feel’

That is undoubtedly a description of Marianne Kemp’s unique hand woven horsehair pieces. Marianne Kemp is specialized in weaving with horsehair.

During her final project at the Art academy she used the theme ‘Bringing outside - inside’. Experimenting with dried plant fibers and with horsehair. After graduation Marianne got a scholarship and left to study at the Chelsea College of Art & Design London. A year later, in 2000, after finishing her study she got back to weaving with horsehair.

The most interesting designs I develop further into a bigger objects or installations. With this I go to interior designers, for whom I work out a ordered design or technique in the colors they want. My experimental / free work is a lot more complicated and labour intensive. She is regularly exhibiting her experimental work at shows and exhibitions.

“I’m fascinated by the movement of the weavings, how the horsehair manifest in the net of the weaving technique.” Also the way the light falls on the weaving, plays an important role in the process to the final product. Each piece of work has it’s own unique character through the use of colors and techniques. Working with horsehair is for the time being, endless.

An artisan who creates from experimentation with her materials. Weaving new surfaces that are ‘different’, not to be recognized as the ‘conventional’ weaving. Marianne develops her own techniques in the weaving process.

Using small bunches of horsehair, interwoven with linen or cotton, she creates exclusive fabrics in divers colors and surface textures. The horsehair is sourced from live horses overseas, mainly from the Far East.

In the weaving process she manipulates the bunches through knotting, curling and looping. Because the horsehair has various characteristics qualities like it’s shine, texture and length, each final weaving demonstrates an individual and exciting design. Shiny and smooth – organic and wild – flexible and stiff.

Her inspiration derives from everything that surrounds her: City streets, fashion, architecture as well as nature. Translating found patterns and textures into woven textiles, creating a new surface pattern. Like many craftsmen, the ‘element’ of ‘play’ is also crucial in shaping her ideas towards creating new work. One of the ways of working is simply to sit in front of the loom and let the materials themselves direct the process. Travelling is another source of inspiration: trips to Mexico, Japan and Africa have generated an interest in traditional art and design. It is her intention to incorporate such worldwide weaving traditions with her own creative palette.

All weavings are made-in-house and can be applied to wall panels, lighting, room dividers and window hangings. She also makes installations for exhibitions.

Woven upholstery fabric is also available as the ‘Marianne Kemp’ range, mechanically woven at John Boyd Textiles, UK.

Marianne’s pieces are a balance between textile & contemporary art



Marianne Kemp | Horsehair Weaving | Borneostraat 90hs  
1094 CP Amsterdam NL | T +31 (0)6 15254840  
info@horsehairweaving.com | www.horsehairweaving.com