



## **Memory of Wool**

### **MEW**

#### **Topic description**

Wool and it's perfect past, personal present in my body of work as an artist, educator and investigator and it's future expression as a noble material, as ancient as humankind to be maintained through an innovative mind-set that explores all its vast possibilities so it may remain meaningful in a conscious and balance world that moves forward valuing the knowledge of the past and the memory of the gold of textiles that is wool.

This workshop will explore a robust introduction to the traditional history of wool in general and the felting method in specific, its beginning and early practices ranging thousands of years, it's interesting and nonlinear evolution to the present and new found uses, shapes and meanings in the future. As focused on my work, the embedding of physical computing into felted wool, the creation of interactive sculptures with all that the material may represent in artistic expression and new felting approaches and techniques developed while pushing forward the specific characteristics of this fibre which plasticity, durability, malleability and mechanical resistance are merely the tip of the iceberg, or in fact the tip of the woolberg.

The workshop combines a spoken presentation of the material wool with all its marvellous characteristics and my own body of work as it has evolved, punctuated by images, videos and real life samples to be held, touched and felt. The samples will be composed chronographically to address how wool requires patience and respect for the correct learning and skill curve to reveal its secrets and potential, how knowledge and skill are layered and require commitment and hence the need to protect ancient practices, methods and knowhow in order to build new experiences on a solid basis that allows a continuous evolution of the material and it's expression in the world. The last piece to be showcased will be the culmination of my work so far while embedding felted wool with sensory technology, a felted wearable that reacts to the body and where all the technology is ingrained, felted into the piece as a whole.

#### **Expected audience**

Creatives, designers, architects, textile engineers, teachers, curators, artists. About 30 participants

#### **List of invited speakers**

Diogo Melo –Hardware and Innovation Lead at GUC agency

Bio:

Degree and masters in electronic and communication engineering at ISEL, Lisbon, Develops work crossing sound and technology.

Technical director for five years at Filmebase/Cinesonics, developing products and being responsible for the maintenance of the sound equipment for cinema and television, also working on transcripts from analogue to digital formats.

Colaborated with artists such as Sónia Baptista, Miguel Bonneville, Ana Guedes and AnaRita de Albuquerque, as technical director, sound designer, musician and interactive electronic designer. Works with communication agencies creating and developing products and interactive installations.

### **Format**

Show and tell with video and audio presentation, samples of work, insights of the technical challenges and the experience of Diogo Melo, one of my collaborators and finally a panel session on the future of this method, the specific characteristics of wool that make it into a perfect carrier for technology and all the problem solving journey into this piece as well as to what's next !

### **Expected benefits of participating in the workshop**

A broader view and deepened knowledge on textile evolution with a deep focus on wool and the felting method, it's applications and innovative promises, bridging creative, practical and technical approaches.

**Organiser:** VOLUMEAtelier AKA Ana Rita de Albuquerque, artist, art educator, fibre and textile surface expert, researcher and maker.

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VOLUMEAtelier

Ana Rita de Albuquerque

### **Bio**

Born in 1981 in Covilhã, Degree in language and music, established as an artist since 2006 under the name VOLUMEAtelier, which serves as a creative and experimental project for research, production and development of art, collaborations and multiple projects focusing the preservation of textile heritage, through education and documentation.

**Infrastructure** -sitting places, voice, video and power point display.