

Folkform
+ LDP

the

5 — 11
september
2022

blue

tapes

Presented
by
Dahl
Agenturer

tries

Folkform + Louis De Poortere at Dahl Agenturer showroom during
Stockholm Design week 5–11 September 2022

experiments in blue

DESIGN EXPLORATIONS
IN THE CRAFT OF
MACHINE WEAVING

Blue is one of three primary colours in traditional colour theory and, arguably, it is the most mysterious.

Folkform: The Blue Tapestries is an exhibition of five limited edition textile-based artworks from the Stockholm-based design studio Folkform. Hosted at the Dahl Showroom, the exhibition runs across Stockholm Design Week (5-11 September).

The new tapestries, all of which are signed and numbered, were created with the Belgian carpet manufacturer Louis De Poortere (LDP). The collaborators were introduced by Linda and Alexander Dahl of Dahl Agenturer. Linda Dahl says: “We have known Folkform for many years. And always loved their design. Some of Folkform’s first editions from early on we have bought to have in our private homes. We very much appreciate their way of working between art and industrial design and we believe that their furniture and objects are design collectibles of the future. It has been a dream to collaborate with them for a long time and we came up with the idea to ask them to design a series of carpets and introduced them to LDP.”

The tapestries mark the first time that Folkform has worked in textile, and see the studio explore the colour blue after having visited the LDP weaving factory. It was here that the studio’s founders Chandra Ahlsell and Anna Lovisa Holmquist discovered a striking ultramarine yarn. Holmquist says: “We have been fascinated by the colour blue in our creative process for some years now and used it as a colour on our furniture and other objects. It is so interesting to experiment with the unique pigment, how the colour changes with daylight in a room, the spectrum of different tones, and its cultural contexts.”

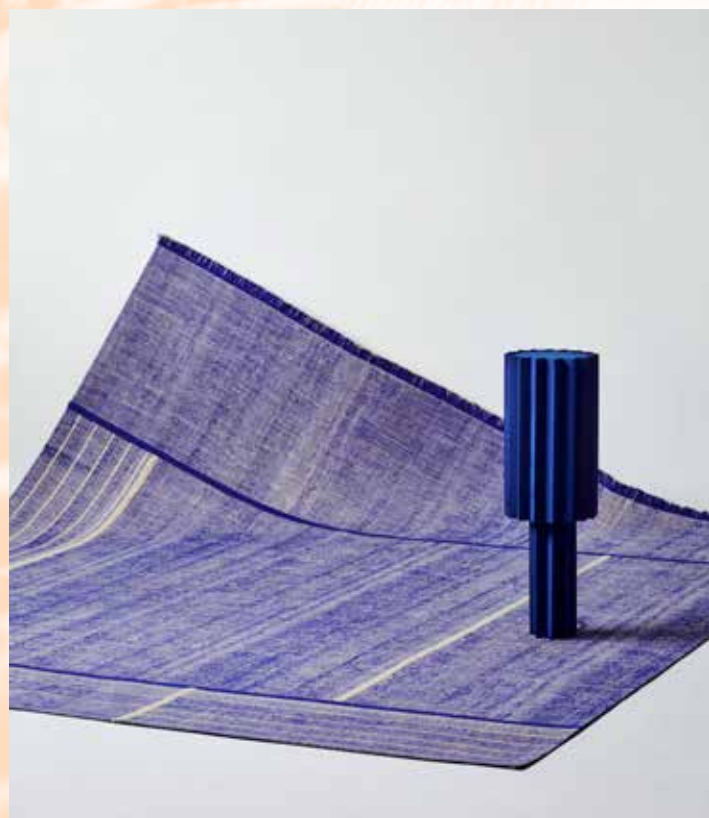
Folkform’s work is both inspired by and challenges traditional manufacturing techniques. The Blue Tapestry Artworks are no exception. They draw on the Wilton carpet, a type of woven textile developed in 18th-Century England. These are made using a single backing, often jute, woven around the pile yarn. The Blue Tapestry Artworks subvert this tradition by combining jute with a blue wool yarn and bringing it to the front of the textile. The resulting tapestries see rich ultramarine intersect with the beige of jute. Subtle gradations of colour create a spectrum of different tones. The immateriality of blue meets with earthy, natural shades.

The Blue Tapestry Artworks are presented alongside images by documentary photographer Magnus Laupa charting the manufacturing process. At a time when the heritage of small-scale, local industry is threatened by global mass production, the proximity to the manufacturing processes presented in The Blue Tapestries becomes even more meaningful.

"It feels more important than ever to gather and spread knowledge about how furniture and other objects are made," says Holmquist. "Often the products we surround ourselves with are produced so far away that it is difficult to trace raw materials, production methods and the health of the work environment these processes lead back to. That is why telling the story of the origins of a product is so important to us. Through our projects, we want to increase understanding of the creation of an object."

These ideas are particularly relevant to Louis de Poortere, one of the few carpet and rug producers in Europe to still create woven Wilton textile floorings. Louis Dryon, a fourth-generation member of the family that owns the company, highlights The Blue Tapestry Artworks's combination of traditional craft knowledge and contemporary experimentation. "We have been truly inspired by Folkform's ability to take our beautiful craft of weaving authentic Wilton carpets and transform these into pieces of art, he says. "Folkform's vision, zest for colour and enthusiasm for our craft has brought a new dimension to this traditional technique, which is truly refreshing."

The first three limited edition tapestries were exhibited at Bukowskis auction house in Stockholm during the retrospective exhibition Folkform Factory Works that took place in Stockholm in February 2022. The complete collection will be launched in February 2023 during the Stockholm Furniture Fair.



About Folkform

Art and Design Studio Folkform was founded in 2005 and is run by Stockholm-based designers Chandra Ahlsell and Anna Lovisa Holmquist. The studio's founders began collaborating while studying industrial design at Konstfack in Stockholm: Ahlsell went on to study at the Pratt Institute in New York, while Holmquist pursued her studies at Goldsmiths in London as well as the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. Folkform's work is represented in the collections of the Swedish Nationalmuseum in Stockholm and the Nasjonalmuseet in Oslo. In 2019, Folkform won the Bruno Mathsson Award, the most prestigious design prize in the Nordic countries.

About Louis De Poortere

Louis De Poortere is a Belgian carpet manufacturer that was established in Kortrijk in 1929 by Louis De Poortere. Previously, De Poortere had gained experience in Belgium's celebrated textile industry through his family's company De Poortere Freres, cloth manufacturers and merchants since 1859. This history was combined with De Poortere's own desire for innovation, which saw him diversify collections and explore new production techniques. As an innovator, designer and pioneer, Louis De Poortere imprinted his desire for progress on his company. Today, Louis De Poortere is still a family-owned business that honours its history, but thanks to its investment in high technology, it already has one foot in the future.

About Dahl Agenturer

Dahl Agents is a Swedish design agency founded in 1976 by Arne Dahl. With a devotion to textile carpets Dahl Agenturer has been supplying carpets (and lighting) to projects since the 1970s, working across offices, hotels, retail, schools, private homes and many others. The agency aims to be involved as early as possible in each project so as to offer its unique mixture of inspiration, knowledge and experience regarding budgets, deliveries, sustainability and environmental certificates, all while helping architects and interior designers however it can.

Notes to the editor

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Private view: An adapted private view and drinks reception will be held at Dahl on the **8th of September**.

Cocktail: 17–21.00

Opening hours viewing: Monday–Friday 10–17 Saturday 10–16

Dahl Agenturer 111 47 Stockholm

Artist talk Tuesday 6th at 12pm: Folkform "On the colour Blue"

Press preview Tuesday 6th at 9 am

