



FibreFest 2011

FibreVoice - Talks

Be Inspired by the Natural Fibre Message

Linda Cortright - The Voice of Foreign pastures

Linda lives in Maine USA and is the editor of **'Wild Fibers Magazine'**. Linda started 'Wild Fibers' in 2004 after spending several years as marketing director for The Island Institute, a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping sustain Maine's islands and remote coastal areas. From travelling with nomads and their camels in the Gobi Desert to working with veiled weavers in Morocco, 'Wild Fibers' mission is focused on preserving both the animal and art of Natural Fibres. **'The Voice of Foreign Pastures'** provides an intimate portrait of some of the most remote regions of the planet, including the Changtang Nomads from India's high Himalayas and their cashmere goats to the vanishing camels of the Gobi Desert. Linda looks at how the effects of consumer demand have altered farming practices and impacted on the environment. *'As slow Food philosophy continues penetrating Western cultures the concept and importance of Slow Fibre is right behind'*.

Lesley Prior - Where it begins – 'The integrity of the Raw Material'

Lesley runs Devon Fine Fibres, producing top quality Cashmere and Superfine Bowmont wool. She sits on the Campaign for Wool Council as Artisan Project Manager acting as liaison and a channel of communication for both large and small-scale wool producers. She began farming in 2002 when the family moved to Devon and bought 3 Angora goats. 'With no background in farming we had no preconceived ideas and set about creating a farm where animal welfare and an obsession with fibre quality go hand in hand'. She now has 200 Cashmere goats and 100 Bowmont sheep! Lesley tells us her fascinating story, about her devotion to getting the finest raw product possible and how this will make a difference to Natural Fibre having real commercial significance.

Tom Podkolinski - Finisterre and Bowmont Sheep

Tom is architect and one of Finisterre's founding three. Finisterre is an award winning ethical clothing company based in Cornwall, making surf wear and technical based layers to exacting design standards and for a discerning audience. Tom is Finisterre's 'First' designer and the man behind the fabric innovations. He has scoured the four corners of the earth for the finest fibres in the world, and once thought about making fabrics out of nimbus clouds! Tom tells the Bowmont story - why Finisterre decided to go indigenous and local for a producer / manufacturer relationship that sustains SW natural resource and supports Finisterre's ethics and environmental values.

Tim Booth - The British Wool Marketing Board and The Campaign for Wool

Product Development Manager - Tim Booth works closely with licensed manufacturers in both the UK and the IUSA. He was actively involved in establishing an objective measurement system for the UK clip, prior to auction. Tim's talk will cover the role and activity of the British Wool Marketing Board and the efforts of The Campaign for Wool a worldwide multinational initiative spearheaded by HRH Prince Charles to raise awareness of and use of wool.

Emma Dulcie Rigby and Tara Baoth Mooney - Fashion Footprints

Emma and Tara took their MA's at The London College of Fashion, they are the curators of the **'Fashion Footprints'** exhibit. Their talk focuses on the environmental and social issues in the fashion and textile industry, offering potential solutions. They present an insight into eight key areas of change including materials, processes, garment use, issues concerning waste, consumption, locality, bio-mimicry, and the relationship between user and maker. Their solutions are small and large in scale, they outline realistic changes that people can make in their day-to-day lives, as well as changes that can be made from the top down.

Gill Burbidge - Felt Making Binding Relationships

Gill, Head of Art at Bicton College is passionate about the potential of Nuno felting to convey a message on the creative stage. She metaphorically links Nuno with the development of human relationships. 'Like the human embrace the haptic process (touch) reflects sustainable relations in our lives and society. Through the process of creating with natural raw material, which requires only kinetic energy, a fabric evolves and the fibres bind together and evolve through creative tensions; like society the process can defy and yet bind and sustain. It celebrates the

Kate Lynch - Fine Artist - Lamb to Loom

Kate Lynch painter and teacher talks about her life as an artist and educator and her captivating exhibit, **'From Lamb to Loom'** - atmospheric paintings, which follow sheep, farmers and craftspeople through the seasons. Her work forms a fascinating picture of rural life and does much to bring awareness, in a captivating manner, the beauty and passion of the Natural fibre process.

For further details go to www.fibrefest.co.uk or call Richard Vickery on 01884 881234



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
PATRON: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

