

Fibres & fabrics

BY PHILIPPA WATKINS

Yarn fair **Pitti Filati** (for AW 15/16), was once again a joy, with a lively atmosphere as knitwear remains in fashion and higher numbers of visitors gave spinners a boost – attendance figures increased overall by 8% to 5,200 – and there was less talk of the financial crisis. But, even so, while business is picking up, the Italian industry still has its problems. Exports still keep Italian spinners afloat – and luckily foreign visitors to the fair have grown, by 9.5% this time, and continue to outnumber Italian visitors (though Italian visitors did actually increase by 6%). But, as one US visitor to the fair noted, “Pitti Filati is the place where you always find the best companies and best presentations... and the fall/winter season is my favourite!”

The theme for the A/W 15/16 season at the *Spazio Ricerca* in **Pitti Filati**, was ‘MADE IN’, which focussed on the added value of a product made with a high craft content, using traditional techniques, while also using advanced technologies. One of the ten mood themes presented, was created by the **San Patrignano Weaving Workshop**, which made 25 tableaux, expressed in hand weaving, inspired by the landscapes, colours and materials of the Australian outback. The workshop, a rehab project to give opportunities to learn craftsmanship, also presented a collection of hand woven scarves, shawls and blankets.

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Filpucci, see page 18



“Made in” – Spazio Ricerca, Pitti Filati

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As for trends for next winter... there is still a lightness and softness to yarns, giving the impression of weightlessness and airy volume. Yarns are either very fine, or very big, made by multiplying to create chunky, but light, airy yarns.

Fancy yarns come in a variety of mixed mouliné or jaspé twists. Where last year there had been more ‘caged’ big yarns, this time there were more chunky, multiplied yarns, alongside, not so much fluffy as furry, plush velvety surfaces, crafted with full round yarns or bouclés, sometimes with metallic sparkle. Tape yarns are still prominent, in a variety of blends, twists and sizes, from tiny to large.

Natural fibres, wool and noble fibres are all ingredients in spinners collections, in countless combinations of blends or twists, and mixes of colour – and, quite often, with a touch of metallic. Noble fibres were prominent, in blends with other fibres, with alpaca still especially strong, and some spinners have also included yak fibre. Cashmere remains a luxury staple for winter, both pure and in blends with other fibres.

Italian cashmere specialist **Cariaggi**, taking inspiration from decorative Constantinople and the Ottoman empire, has introduced very light, carpety bouclé cashmere yarns, also in tweedy effects. It also has the finest of veil yarns, in silk/Lurex for transparent knits and pattern, and a

cashmere/silk melange. Cashmere is also dyed with natural dyes, also multiplied into big airy yarns. An important 'blue' colour story persists, going into grey and white (snow in Istanbul). Another effect is a leather look in the yarn, which is achieved with a finish.

Scotland's **Todd & Duncan** has pure cashmere melange colours, also in the popular 'denim' blues collection, used in multiple denim marls or jaspé twists. But, its Scottish heritage is also important in the *Hebridean* collection in heathery tones, with five new colour mixes, alongside the new *Tweedsmuir* in pure cashmere with multi-coloured Donegal knops, and a cashmere/silk blend with a wonderful touch. Knits were shown in a theme taken from sculptor Louise Bourgeois with repeating forms.



Todd & Duncan

With alpaca very much in fashion, alpaca specialist **Mitchells of Peru** has seen big changes, expanding its range, as the markets for alpaca grew over the years. Alongside its classic alpaca yarns are fancy yarns with alpaca, including furry effects in tape yarn and bouclés, and several new blends with other fibres.

Manifattura Sesia has many alpaca mixes in their collection, often in natural colours (*Sawh, Peru*) or with tiny specks of bright 'Smarties' colours – as well as new yarns in their 'organic' range (*linea biologica*), *Biofur* and *Nuolari*, which are also mixes of wool and alpaca. Fancy yarns included furry effects in *Mosso* and *Furett*, as well as sequined yarns, which sold well, such as *Gala* and the new *Faberge* (silk and polyester).

EVER FINER AND SOFTER WOOLS

Fine merino wools seem to get finer, sometimes even finer than cashmere, becoming luxury fibres. **Zegna Baruffa**,



Lanificio dell'Olivo (with a hundred years of history) has become a specialist in the spinning of advanced, fine worsted noble fibres like baby alpaca, mohair, silk and the finest wool. This season, it showed off its new yarn range in a collection of finely knitted kimonos, a perfectly timed choice of garment since kimonos are fashion's most talked about item of the moment. Mixes or fancy twists with viscose soften further the noble fibres, adding fluidity and sheen, or with synthetics, including metallic or iridescent effects, to achieve the finest and most alluring yarns.

has introduced *Cashmore* in the **Chiavazza** range, spun from the finest of carded superfine wool, finer than cashmere at 14.5 micron, a precious yarn, which is difficult to make, with a soft velvety touch.

Wool specialist **Lanecardate** makes its woollen spun yarns from tops, which give it added luxury softness. Its most luxurious yarns are a fine woollen spun (17 micron) wool, and a blend with wool/silk/cashmere.

In the **Botto Poala** collection of fine precious yarn are *Clivia*, and *Calla*, (mixes of wool/silk), the luxurious *Gold* (cashmere/silk) a bright silky twisted yarns, *Tomorrow* (90%superfine wool/10%cashmere) and different blends of wool/cashmere. And an assortment of ultra-light bouclé yarns, soft and spongy, and also vaguely felted.

At **Tolegno 1900**, whose core business is woollen and worsted spun merino wools for knitting, and hand knitting (under the leading **Lana Gatto** label), the luxury collection includes worsted spun cashmere and cashmere/silk yarns, and superfine merino at 16.5 and 17.5 microns, also in stretch versions with *Elite*. New for winter are *New Cashmere*, a pure cashmere from the Alashan region in Inner Mongolia, which is light with high thermal insulation, and *Nanocashmere* which

is treated to be water repellent and quick drying - also in mixes with stretch fibre *Elite* and viscose.

Viscose specialist **Filpucci**, includes a large selection of wool and wool/cashmere for winter, in fine counts as well as big multiplied yarns with a mouliné or jaspé look, and its very successful recycled cashmere yarn. A velvety or furry effect is provided with yarns *Kirk*, a cashmere/superkid mohair mix, and *Miele* in angora/merino/polyamide, while its *Viscrepe* is still a strong yarn.

COTTON SPINNERS WARM UP FOR WINTER

Cotton is noticeable adapted more for winter, as spinners expand ranges with a variety of blends and mixes.

Cotton specialist **Filmar** has established a network of brands to extend its range of options, including the *Filoscozia* consortium brand, which promotes the best dyed mercerized cotton. A star of **Filmar's** collection is the finest of Egyptian cotton,



Filart

selected at source through its **Filmar Nile Textile** located in Egypt, which is then spun into a fine compact yarn *Myto*, with zero pilling.

Filart, another part of **Filmar's** network of companies, produces heavier, creative yarns in Prato, (based on the heritage of the company **Filare**), with, this season, furry yarns based on blends of cotton with mohair and alpaca, and a beautiful cotton/wool with a warm hand, also in a chain yarn with a soft mouliné effect. Another innovative speciality yarn is a fine, gauze-like, slubbed yarn, which creates a devoré effect when printed.

Cotonificio Roberto Ferrari, which primarily produces melange yarns in cotton (OEKO-TEX certified) and viscose, also blends with other fibres – such as a fine cotton/cashmere blend in a jaspé twist (*Oklahoma*) for casual and sports, a wool/viscose (*Nevada*) and cashmere/viscose



Denim Italiano

(Louisiana). More novelty yarns complete the offer, from tweed and slubbed looks to uneven melange and covered yarns, and fine cotton/nylon tape yarns (*Nebraska*), for a more masculine look in 14 gauge.

At cotton specialist **Iafil**, new for winter is *Voyage*, an intimate blend of cotton/wool, worsted spun, and a cotton/cash/poly intimate blend, where the polyester gives strength, smoothness and is able to be double dyed for a melange look. Soft alpaca is also included in mixes – in *Mellow*, a baby-alpaca/cotton/merino mix, and *Breeze*, an intimate blend of alpaca/wool/nylon.

KNITWEAR STITCH

In terms of fabrics/stitch for winter, on the one hand, there were very compact, flat fabrics with geometric intarsia, and, on the other, light, chunky knits with giant stitch structures and sculptural elements, including Arran style cables, often in flecked effects with jaspé and mouliné yarns. Also flat, fine gauge, decorative double bed jacquards and even more fine gauge fabrics with decorative patterns in blister stitches – and fine knits for layering.

SAFIL'S 60 YEARS SPINNING

At Italian spinner **Safil**, celebrating its 60th birthday, a significant new development for winter is an intimate blend of wool/cotton, an innovation for light wearability in knitwear, offered in melange colours, and also shown in felted effects. Drawing inspiration from nature, yarns for winter also come in fine wools, and blends of alpaca/wool and wool/cashmere.

Traditionally a worsted spinner, **Safil** has expanded with a strong focus on new technologies, making some of the finest yarns, with a high technological content. It was one of the first spinners to launch *X-Compact Technology* into the knitwear market, a compact spinning system, for any fibre including wool, which produces a cleaner smoother yarn, with less hairiness and a better pilling performance than conventional spinning.

The focus of the company is not to compete with China, but to do something different and unique each season – which is how they came to also specialise in functional yarns for workwear and sportswear, in blends of extrafine merino and technical fibres with heat and moisture regulating properties. *Manhattan* is a fine merino blend yarn with its innovative micro-polyester fibre MC12 (12 micron, finer than cashmere), which has an extremely soft hand with a clean look, as well as being easy care, machine washable, low pilling, wrinkle free and very comfortable.

Safil also specialises in mohair spinning for suiting and upholstery – and socks.

'DENIM ITALIANO – ITALIAN DENIM MAKERS'

Denim – the biggest textile business globally – was also on show at Pitti Filati, for the first time in a project which was dedicated to the Italian denim garment-dyed supply chain. And in this exhibition, pairing denim with knitwear was a brilliant and interesting feature, which visitors thoroughly enjoyed.

Central to the event was an exhibition of outfits designed by seven Italian designers

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Cotonificio Ferrari, see page 18

according to themes, a creative showcase from the most important companies and designers in the Italian denim sector - denim weavers as well as those in dyeing, finishing and making up, all presented their products. This is a sector with unique characteristics, which creatively uses denims or denim finishes, to show just what could be done.

The concept will be taken to **Milano Unica** in September, with an array of sample products and accessories produced exclusively to display the expertise of the companies involved.

THE 'JAPAN OBSERVATORY'

AT MILANO UNICA

For the first time, the 'Japan Observatory', will take place in Milano Unica to showcase selected Japanese fabric manufacturers to highlight a 'Japan Quality' in design and fabric, which is often made combining traditional techniques with cutting edge technology.

'FEEL THE YARN' BENEFITS

KNITWEAR STUDENTS

The 'Feel the Yarn' student competition, took place for the 5th time at Pitti Filati, to



Feel the Yarn 2014 Award, Matilda Norberg

find a winner from the 19 young participating designers from eight international design schools. But this is a project in which all participants are winners, through the terrific opportunity to learn from working with the sponsoring spinners, who provide the yarn to make the students outfits. During the project, the student designers, coordinated by Ornella Bignami, are shown the complexities of yarn making, and asked to design and make two outfits with yarn from their partner spinner around a theme. The 38 outfits were displayed at the fair and visitors invited to vote for a winner.

The winner, announced on the third day of the fair, was **Matilda Norberg**, a Norwegian student from the Royal College of Art in London, who had worked with spinner **Industria Italiana Filati**. The



Light 2.0 by Ripa

outfit consisted of a jacket made with very light but chunky yarns, over a finely knit dress, knitted with fine yarns with intermittent metallic specks.

The competition is the result of the collaboration between **Toscana Promozione, Unione Industriale Pratese-Confindustria Prato, Elementi Moda and Pitti Immagine**.

ADVANCES IN SWIMWEAR FABRIC

Italian manufacturers of fabrics for swimwear and underwear, are constantly developing new and interesting features whether functional or visual.

Maglificio Ripa, manufacturer of technically advanced knitted fabrics for swimwear, lingerie and underwear, has launched a new development of its well known *Light* range of fabrics, *Light 2.0*, which allows for superb high-definition print and colour performance – to enhance its swimwear collection. The fabric itself is also silky to the touch as well as UV and chlorine resistant – and will remain as colourful as when it first was worn.

Another versatile swimwear fabric, developed by **Carvico** in the warp knit sector, is *Vita*, offering high performing solutions (See our interview with Carvico on pages 34-35). A compact smooth fabric, made with 78% polyamide *Econyl* (processed from recycled waste, recovered and re-polymerised to create new fibre), with 22% of **Invista's Xtra Life Lycra** at its core, has proved to have higher resistance to damage caused by chlorine, sun creams and oils, than offered by other chlorine-resistant fabrics. With the so called Trunk Test, carried out by **Invista**, simulating typical conditions of exposure to damp and heat, the fabric proved to resist breakage and fit loss 5 times longer than other chlorine resistant elastanes.

In another sector, **Jersey Lomellina**,

a leading brand of high quality circular knit fabrics for swimwear and intimate wear, has been looking at what people wear in thermal baths and Wellness centres. Working with **Invista** with its *Lycra Xtra Life fibre*, extensive tests were carried out in the spa environment, which involved wearing swimwear for many hours, with the aim of enhancing their spa performance. Tests demonstrated that the factors that most stimulate human physical well being – such as thermal water, steam, high temperature, mud, perfumes, cosmetics and oils – are fabric's worst enemies. But during that time, tests found that the JL products *Wonder* and *Renew Prime* both showed outstanding resistance under the most challenging conditions.

EUROPEAN PRESENCE GROWS

AT INTERTEXTILE SHANGHAI

This is a fair that just keeps on growing, including the European presence. At the next event in October, over 3,500 exhibitors from more than 30 countries and regions are expected, to show a very diverse range of apparel fabrics and accessories. The most popular features of the fair again will be country/region pavilions including *SalonEurope*, where European exhibitors will have a large presence showing premium fabric and accessories from Europe, all looking to meet the growing demand for high-end products in the domestic market.

Country pavilions from Germany, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the UK and France will return, as well as the *Milano Unica Pavilion* from Italy.

The best of British textiles will be showing in this year's *UK Pavilion*, with premium long established suppliers taking part – such as **Liberty Art Fabrics**, a name synonymous with luxury and design,

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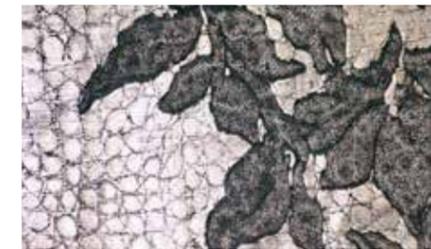
Charlotte Beaver



Flett Bertram



Jonny Luke Wadland



Charlotte Heatheridge



Jessica Hymas



Jane Han Zang



Jersey Lomellina – Spa project, see page 20

M. Makower, producer of cotton prints and patchwork fabrics for 150 years, and **Stephen Walters**, specialist silk weaver, with seasonal collections for tie and fashion fabrics, using silk, linen, cotton, cashmere and wool weft yarns. In the *France Zone*, exhibitors will be targeting high-end, haute couture and luxury brands and designers with their chic and elegant fabrics for ladieswear, and haute couture lace for lingerie.

Also featuring will be the *Premium Wool Zone* showing quality wool fabrics from France, Italy and the UK. And *Verve for Design* will house design studios from Australia, France, Italy, Korea, Spain and the UK, all exhibiting their latest original creative fabrics and textile pattern designs

TEXPRINT 2014

Texprint, which selects and mentors the best new textile design talent to graduate from UK art schools and universities each year, once again presented this years 24 selected design graduates in London, at the Chelsea College of Art.

Following the selection – all of whom will benefit from the **Texprint** events and exhibitions – the task of selecting the very best of the best is given to a panel of experts and influencers, to review and choose the *Texprint Award* winners for Body, Space, Pattern and colour. The four prize winners will be announced during the design show **Indigo**, (part of *Premiere Vision* in Paris) where all the designers will be showing their work. Among the selected designers were...

Charlotte Beaver, whose print designs have colour at their heart, in abstracted compositions, shapes and marks taken from a variety of imagery, resulting in a beautifully expressive and deliciously colourful collection.

Flett Bertram's complex stitched and manipulated cord and embroidery pieces have a rhythmic, organic quality – inspired by shells, capturing their organic and undulating curves – which are aimed at the luxury fashion market.

Jonny Luke Wadland pushes the boundaries of contemporary knitwear by combining different techniques and imagery with traditional Aran and cable knit techniques, to produce a range of very new, dynamic menswear knitwear pieces, with huge impact.

Charlotte Heatheridge is a print designer who has gone beyond just print, to create amazing 3D surfaces, by using innovative print and finishing processes on different fabrics. Designs were inspired

by such status symbols as falcons, lace and ceremonial armour.

Jessica Hymas, a clever knit designer, who, inspired by colour and pattern found in the underwater world, fish and their natural fluorescent colours and translucent textures, created a beautiful collection of subtly fluid, translucent moving knits and hand crochet pieces.

Jane Han Zang, has created stunning pieces rooted in hand painting, printed with large sweeping brush strokes and different marks, sometimes pleated, in sophisticated colours with real impact – creatively inspired by different cultures, combining illustration, painting and mark making.

A PEEK AT NEW DESIGNERS 2014

And, finally, with so much talent on view at New Designers, impossibly difficult to select, but noticeable was how many good print designers were graduating with well researched collections. Techniques were explored – hand screen printing as well as digital, creative finishes, painting and dyeing techniques, as well as discharge and devoré printing. Among the many showing were;

Sian Clarke (Swansea Metropolitan University) exploring devoré printed velvets.

Angela Khon (Swansea Metropolitan University) with cyanotype printing whereby her imagery was revealed on the cloth under UV light.

Maya Dunn (Loughborough University) had also explored devoré printing on velvet.

Emma Formston (Loughborough University) drew and painted myriad flowers in a lively and colourful way.

ONE YEAR ON

Georgia Bocchetta, who has set up her own business, digitally printing her own designs and fabrics in Italy to make into large statement pieces in clothes and scarves.



Sian Clarke



Angela Khon



Maya Dunn



Emma Formston



Georgia Bocchetta

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
ARIE VERVELDE

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the death of Arie Vervelde, who passed away aged 63 on 28th July 2014. He was much appreciated and much loved by the world of education, publishing and fashion.

His career spanned: The Cotton Institute NL; The Dutch Fashion Institute; Illustrations For Textilia, Gap Italia, Elegance, Man, Margriet, View, De Telegraaf newspaper; collaborations With Du Pont, Heimtex, the Stijlinstituut Amsterdam; worked with Gucci and Moschino to name a few; and adored lecturer and teacher at the Design Academy in Eindhoven and ARTez, Arnhem. He was awarded The Grand Seigneur Award in 1998, Holland's highest recognition, for his work in fashion.

He has worked with View Publications since our launch in 1988 providing covers, concepts and illustrations covering fashion and interior design right up until his death. He was not only much valued but also much loved by all the staff here. Fashion and textiles is a wonderful but not always easy business. In all the years we have known Arie, we have never heard one word spoken badly about him nor he speak badly about anyone or anything.

A fuller obituary will appear in the next issue of Textile View.



Arie Vervelde