

KNOTS: Textile Topologies

Rooted in custom and the hand-made, textiles have been present throughout global history not only as an aesthetic tradition, but as a conveyor of important societal issues in every-day lives. In contemporary art practice, each new iteration creates a wider and more diverse bridge between historical and modern issues. Gunta Stölzl, in her article “The Development of the Bauhaus Weaving Workshop” in 1931 stated:

The vitality of the material forces people working with textiles to try out new things daily, to readjust time and again, to live with their subject, to intensify it, to climb from experience to experience in order to do justice to the needs of our time.

This philosophy still holds true today and is evident in the current exhibition *KNOTS: Textile Topologies*.

Topology is a major area of mathematics concerned with the most basic properties of space. Topological spaces and structures follow formal concepts of textiles, such as convergence, connectedness, and continuity. Through this semantic kinship, textile art-making finds its place in a larger conversation, as the title of the show suggests, which prompts investigation of the inherent messages conveyed in the materials and its various applications.

The work in the exhibition goes beyond a devotion to the aesthetic qualities of material and process, and steps firmly into a realm in which viewers are prompted to question context within the current economic, social and political climate. The artists identify their practice with the history and the materiality of textiles as a means to best describe their intentions and the issues that are important to them.

Both undergraduate and graduate CCA artists share the exhibition space, standing in solidarity for the complexity and diversity of textiles practices. The pieces incorporate a wide range of recognizable forms, as well as unexpected turns and adjustments within an inclusive definition of textiles. Each individual voice complements the multiple conversations that resonate between the work and the space – pushing the dialog forward.