



Paper Generations, Generations of Paper

Almost 2,000 years ago humans copied the way of paper making from the wasp. Century after century this craft was passed on to next generations. New generations came up with new production methods, shapes, forms and applications. The exhibition 'Paper generations, generations of paper', is exhibited from March 24th to June 30th at Yksi Expo, and gives a surprising picture of this everyday yet unobtrusive material. From the time-honoured paper to contemporary experiments and from classic watermarks to contemporary art and design. With this exhibition initiator Leonne Cuppen (Yksi Connect) honours Martin Cuppen (88), an avid collector who worked his entire career in the paper industry.

The wasp mixes fibers from plants with saliva into a mush and leaves the mash to dry to build a wasp's nest. It is generally assumed that Cai Lun, a Chinese, learned this craft in 105 a.d. studying the wasp. He crushed bamboo fibers, the bark of the paper mulberry and silk waste, mixed it with water, and let it dry: and, behold, he had invented paper.

Over the centuries we have entrusted laws and contracts to paper, we have used paper to transfer knowledge and spread news. It legitimizes our journeys by train and plane, proves our identity and whispers our words of love. We even clean our most intimate parts with it. Europeans use on average more than 150 kilos of paper and cardboard a year, despite the digitalization consumption still increases.

Paper scoops and fifteen shades of white paper

Under the title 'Paper Generations, Generations of Paper' Yksi Expo highlights this versatile material from different sides. Martin Cuppen sets up a workshop for making paper. He also shows part of his collection of special watermarks and paper products. The graphic industry also shows what it is capable of today. Paper expert Trudy Dorrepaal compiled a selection of 15 special types of paper that are distinguished from each other by their special surface. Fifteen shades of framed white paper, smelling is allowed touching is compulsory.

Designers and artists

In addition to scientists and companies, designers and artists are also looking for new ways to (re) use paper. The exhibition shows a wide range of experiments and examples: from paper pulp as a basis for tiles, stones or furniture, to wearable jewelry, and from vases and barrels to intriguing art objects. Material Sense presents the paper samples from designers from its own materials archive for this occasion. Another special feature is the contribution of six designers with an Asian background, living and working in the Netherlands. Together they organize and design presentations and exhibitions, each time meeting the challenge with an everyday material. Each in their own way they show how innovations can be realized on the basis of the characteristics and properties of the material in question, by playing and experimenting with technique, craft, process, form and interpretation.

The exhibition is curated by Leonne Cuppen (Yksi Connect), Simone de Waart (Material Sense LAB) and designer Daria Biryukova and will be officially opened on 6 April from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm, including a paper making demonstration by Martin Cuppen. During the exhibition there are various activities such as lectures, presentations and pitches from designers and paper making workshops. For the exact program see www.yksiexpo.nl

Yksi Connect connects designers with the industry, offers inspiration, leads the way and exposes issues. She gets her strength from cooperation and cross-fertilization.

Yksi Expo organizes exhibitions focusing on the work of Dutch designers.

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