



Press release February 14, 2019

Launch of Conscious Leather Foundation during MaterialDistrict Rotterdam Ahoy New platform for sustainable production of leather and alternatives for leather

The Conscious Leather Foundation will be launched on 14 March. This platform promotes sustainable production of leather and collects and shares knowledge about alternatives to leather and leather production. The new foundation also brings designers and industry together in cooperation projects. During MaterialDistrict Rotterdam (12-14 March, Ahoy), the first activity of the platform can be seen: the exhibition Like Leather, with surprising examples of alternatives for leather and leather production.

Downside

Leather made from animal skins is a beautiful and natural material, but its production has a downside. Many chemicals are used for tanning and the process costs a lot of water. And how are the animals kept and treated?

Plant materials

Companies look for alternatives such as animal and environmentally friendly production methods and processes. Designers go one step further and think of ways to reuse and recycle leather and to process it into new products. Some of them start with another source such as the skin of fish or the intestines and bladders of sheep, pigs and cows - materials that usually end up with the waste. There are also designers who use plant materials as an alternative, such as the bark of pine trees or the fibres of banana trees. The Like Leather exhibition shows a number of surprising examples.

Conscious Leather Foundation

The Conscious Leather Foundation will bring together the increasing number of initiatives in this area and bundle and share the growing knowledge and expertise. An important goal of the foundation is to connect designers and industry in cooperation projects in order to make production processes more sustainable and to accelerate the development of alternatives. In addition, the Conscious Leather Foundation wants to actively work on raising awareness through events such as exhibitions.

The initiators are Leonne Cuppen (Yksi Connect, intermediary and innovator), Simon Angel (designer and adviser for sustainable innovations) and Cees van de Ven (owner Nyvidd, a fish skin company).

Lecture program

In addition to the Like Leather exhibition, the Conscious Leather Foundation organizes a lecture program on this theme during MaterialDistrict Rotterdam, on March 14 from 11.00 to 13.00. Participating designers at the exhibition Like Leather Shahar Livne and Agnieska Mazur, experts and representatives from the industry like Nicoline van Enter (creative director Footwearists) enter into a dialogue with the visitors. Moderated by Leonne Cuppen (Yksi Connect, designer and intermediary) and Simon Angel (sustainable business innovator). At 13.15 hours, the official launch of the Conscious Leather Foundation will take place.