



Press release February 14, 2019

During MaterialDistrict Rotterdam Ahoy Like Leather - alternatives to leather

Bags of plant fibers, a fish leather stool and leathery accessories of cow stomachs. Designers devise all sorts of sustainable alternatives for leather. And develop ways and methods to give leather a longer life or to recycle and reuse leather. From 12 to 14 March, surprising examples can be seen at the exhibition Like Leather in Rotterdam Ahoy as part of MaterialDistrict Rotterdam, the leading event in the field of innovative materials for R&D and design professionals. On March 14 the new Conscious Leather Foundation will be launched.

Downside

Leather is a beautiful material, but its production has a downside. Tanning has become less polluting over time, but many chemicals are still being used and the process still uses a lot of water. And how are the animals kept and treated?

Circular economy

The Like Leather exhibition shows a number of products, concepts and production methods of designers looking for sustainable forms of leather and possible alternatives. In this way they want to contribute to a circular economy. 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 such as the bark of pine trees or the fibers of banana trees. Still other designers try to extend the life span of leather or to recycle leather goods and to process them into new products.

Participants:

Buxkin - Bekleding voor wanden, vloeren en panelen / Mies Loogman - Wild Leather
Studio Nienke Hoogvliet - Re-Sea-Me / reWrap - Tree Bag
NYVIDD – Fish Leather / Sarmite Polakova – PINESkins
Billie van Katwijk – Venti / Atelier La Gadoue – Tchouc
Julie van den Boorn – Compoleather / Notebook - Coffee Based
Shahar Livne - nat2foodwear / Qwstion Bags – Banana Tex
Conscious Leather Foundation / Hung Sheng Lee (Herry) – The Beauty of Sickniss
Agnieszka Mazur -Medina / Clara Roussel- A Journey Into Poplar Bark
Danielle Ooms – Apple based material
Completed by materials from the library of Material District – Els Zijlstra

Launch Conscious Leather Foundation

During MaterialsDistrict Rotterdam on March 14 from 11.00-13.00 hours an interactive presentation on this theme takes place. Participating designers from the exhibition Like Leather Shahar Livne and Agnieszka 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). Following this event, at 13.15 hours the new Conscious Leather Foundation will be launched. 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.

The exhibition Like Leather is a cooperation between Yksi Connect, Material District Rotterdam and Conscious Leather Foundation. See also www.yksiexpo.nl and <https://rotterdam.materialdistrict.nl/>

Note for the editor (not for publication): For more information about the exhibition and / or marketing material please contact:
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Yksi Expo organizes exhibitions to mainly highlight the work of Dutch designers.

Yksi Connect connects designers with the industry, provides inspiration, gives directions and resolves issues. They draw their strength from collaborations and cross-fertilizations.