

ModeMuseum
Antwerp
&
Maurice Verbaet
Center
present

Tactile
Dialogues

Soft?

28—09—2018
24—02—2019

@ Maurice Verbaet Center
Mechelsesteenweg 64A
2018 Antwerp

momu.be — verbaet.com

Soft?

Tactile Dialogues

How do we choose our specific material, our means of communication?

“Accidentally.”

Something speaks to us, a sound, a touch, hardness or softness,
it catches us and asks us to be formed.

We are finding our language, and as we go along
we learn to obey their rules and their limits.

We have to obey, and adjust to those demands.

Ideas flow from it to us and though we feel to be the creator
we are involved in a dialogue with our medium [...]

in my case it was threads that caught me, really against my will.

To work with threads seemed sissy to me. I wanted something to be conquered.

But circumstances held me to threads and they won me over.

I learned to listen to them and to speak their language.

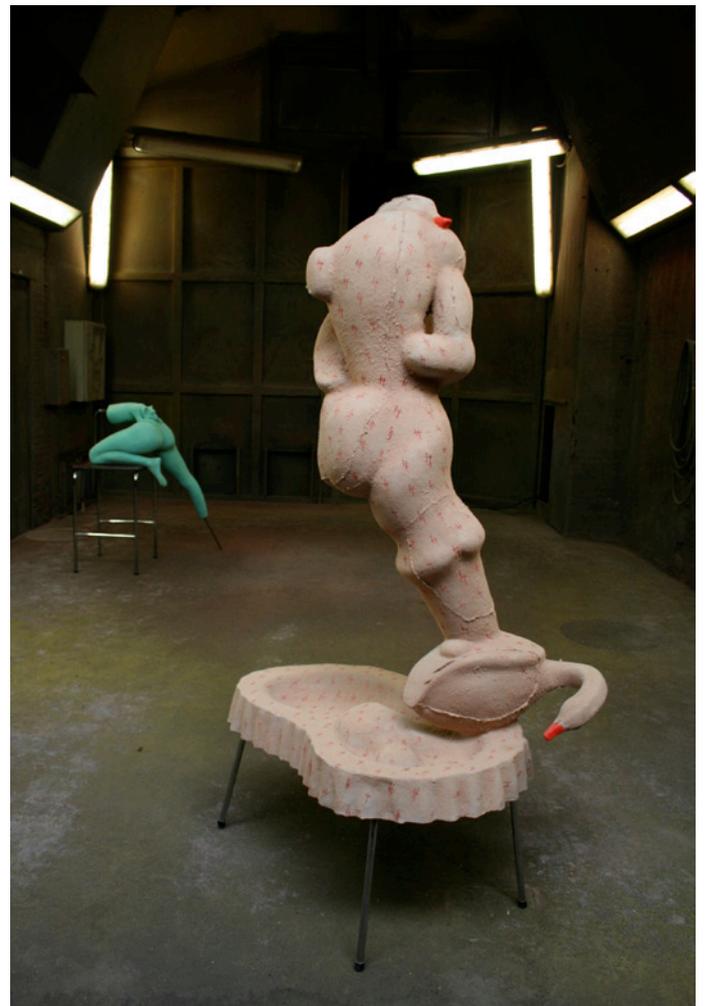
Anni Albers, ‘Material as metaphor’, 1982

Anton Cotteleer,
‘Proberen de goede ganzenhouder te zijn’, 2012

Photo © Anton Cotteleer

Kirstin Arndt, ‘untitled’, 2013

Photo © Gallery Sofie Van de Velde



Soft?

Tactile Dialogues

From 28/09/2018 to 24/02/2019, MoMu will present the exhibition 'SOFT? Tactile Dialogues' at the Maurice Verbaet Center in Antwerp. This will mark the first time that MoMu takes its focus away from fashion. It will present work from its own collection by Belgian textile artists from the 1970s and 1980s in an inspiring dialogue with contemporary artists who express themselves freely in textiles.

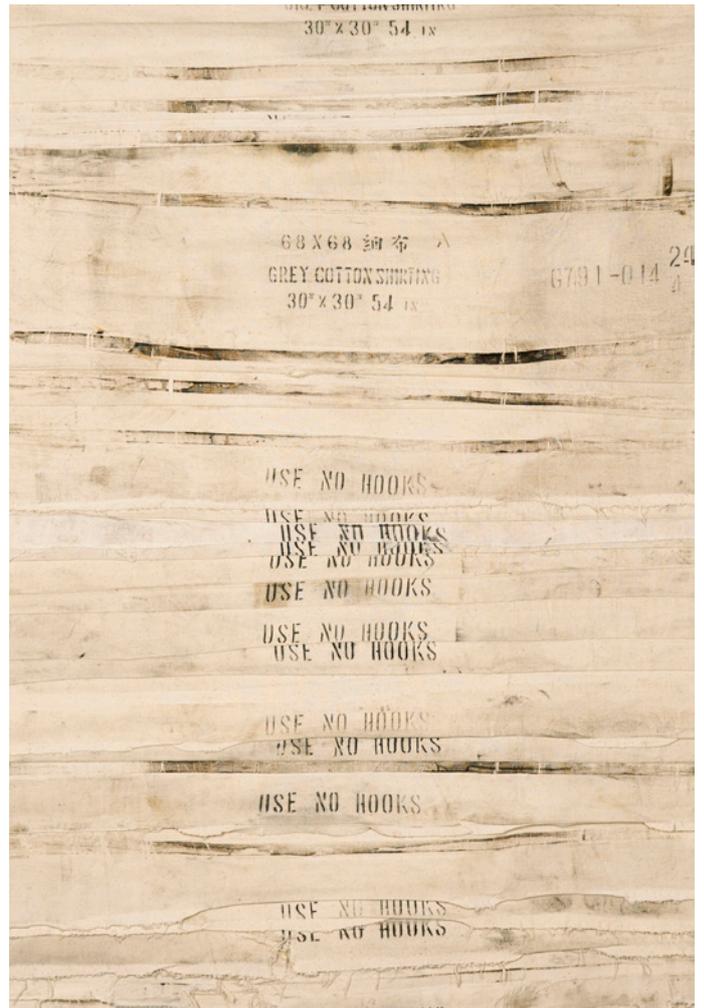
In the 1960s and 1970s, many feminist, post-minimalist, and fibre artists found their way to textiles. They were attracted to the aesthetic possibilities, structural potential, and semiotic power of this 'soft' material. The intuitive or militant use of textiles – a material traditionally associated with commerce and industry – put pressure on the stark distinction between fine and applied arts. It was precisely because of the sexist association of textiles with 'women's work' or 'decoration', that feminist artists used it to denounce the balance of power within the art world.

Belgian artists such as **Veerle Dupont**, **Suzannah Olieux**, and **Liberta Ferket** also expressed themselves in textiles during this era. Their oeuvres form an exceptional component of MoMu's collection. Also shown in the exhibition is the work of the better known Belgian-Polish artist **Tapta**, whose work is part of the 'caroline&mauriceverbaetcollection', a private collection of Belgian modern art produced after the war. Although these artists often worked at the margins of the art world, their continual efforts were crucial for textiles to become an accepted medium in contemporary art. In 'SOFT? Tactile Dialogues', MoMu will present work by this first generation for the first time in dialogue with contemporary artists such as **Kati Heck**, **Nel Aerts**, **Anton Cotteleer**, **Sven 't Jolle**, **Klaas Rommelaere**, **Christoph Hefti**, **Stéphanie Baechler** and **Kirstin Arndt**. This younger generation expresses themselves unapologetically and freely in textiles, often combined with other media. This sense of freedom is owed to the battle fought by that first generation, as well the changing perception of art criticism where the quality of an artwork has little to do with style or medium, but all to do with artistic intention.

'SOFT? Tactile Dialogues' is about the freedom with which artists move between various media, about unexpected textile applications, about tactility and aversion, about the textures and the skin of sculptures. The Maurice Verbaet Center's 1960s architecture and its monumental stairwell and art gallery form an impressive backdrop for the exhibition.

Soft? Route

In October and November 2018, **PLUS-ONE Gallery**, **Gallery Sofie Van de Velde**, **Geukens & De Vil** and **DMW Art Space** will also join 'SOFT? Tactile Dialogues', and unexpected installations by young artists will create a dialogue with passers-by at various locations across Antwerp.



Edith Van Driessche, 'Use No Hooks', 1980-85
MoMu Collection T96/46 | Photo: Vesna Faassen © MoMu Antwerp

Nel Aerts, 'Ontmaskerd Maske', Edition of 20, 2017

Photo © We Document Art



Klaas Rommelaere, 'Time Management', 2018

Photo © Gallery Zink



Christoph Hefti, 'Animal Mask', 2016

Photo © Courtesy Maniera

Practical

‘SOFT? Tactile Dialogues’

28–09–2018

24–02–2019

@ Maurice Verbaet Center

Mechelsesteenweg 64A, 2018 Antwerp

Opening hours: Friday to Sunday, 1pm > 6pm

Entrance: free

www.verbaet.com

MoMu – ModeMuseum Antwerp

T +32 3 470 27 70 | info@momu.be

www.momu.be

Press

David Flamée

T +32 470 27 77

david.flamee@momu.be

#MoMu2020

MoMu Reopening 2020

Closed for renovations,
open to inspire at other locations.

From 16 April 2018, MoMu is closing the doors of its building on the Nationalestraat for renovation and expansion work that will continue until 2020.

While the building is being renovated, MoMu will step out on various locations in the world:

‘Margiela, the Hermès years’

22–03–2018 > 02–09–2018

MAD, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

‘SOFT? Tactile Dialogues’

28–09–2018 > 24–02–2019

Maurice Verbaet Center, Antwerp

Maurice Verbaet Center

Located in the decommissioned former Antwerp Water Works buildings, the Maurice Verbaet Center opened in September 2015. This unique privately-run museum with an 1960s architecture, is the culmination of years of fervent collecting by its owners Caroline and Maurice Verbaet. Upholding the belief that art connects people, the entrepreneurial couple invites a broad audience to (re)discover Belgian modern art produced during and after the war, the period known as ‘Les Trentes Glorieuses’ (1945–1975).

During the expo ‘SOFT? Tactile Dialogues’, a unique collaboration with MoMu, a selection of the ‘caroline&mauriceverbaetcollection’ will be free to visit from Friday until Sunday between 1pm–6pm, and every day on demand for groups.

www.verbaet.com

Tapta, ‘Horizon Flexibles’, 1976

‘caroline&mauriceverbaetcollection’ | Photo: Vesna Faassen © Maurice Verbaet Center



Follow us

@momuantwerp | #momuantwerp



Kati Heck, 'Dreimal Selbst mit Magier', 2016

Photo © Tim Van Laere Gallery

