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01 *Softspace #3*, Marie Schumann

02 *Softspace #12*, Marie Schumann



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Marie Schumann

'Schumann's experimentations with floats and fibres have the potential to "radically expand" the properties of weaving'

Marie Schumann weaves soft spaces. A German native, Swiss resident and 2017 nominee for the prestigious Swiss Design Award, Schumann describes herself as 'a designer who creates atmospheric objects.' Lurex weft floats—some as large as 1.70m—create profound effects in her weaves reminiscent of the role of punctures and slashes in artist and founder of Spatialism Lucio Fontana's minimalist paintings.

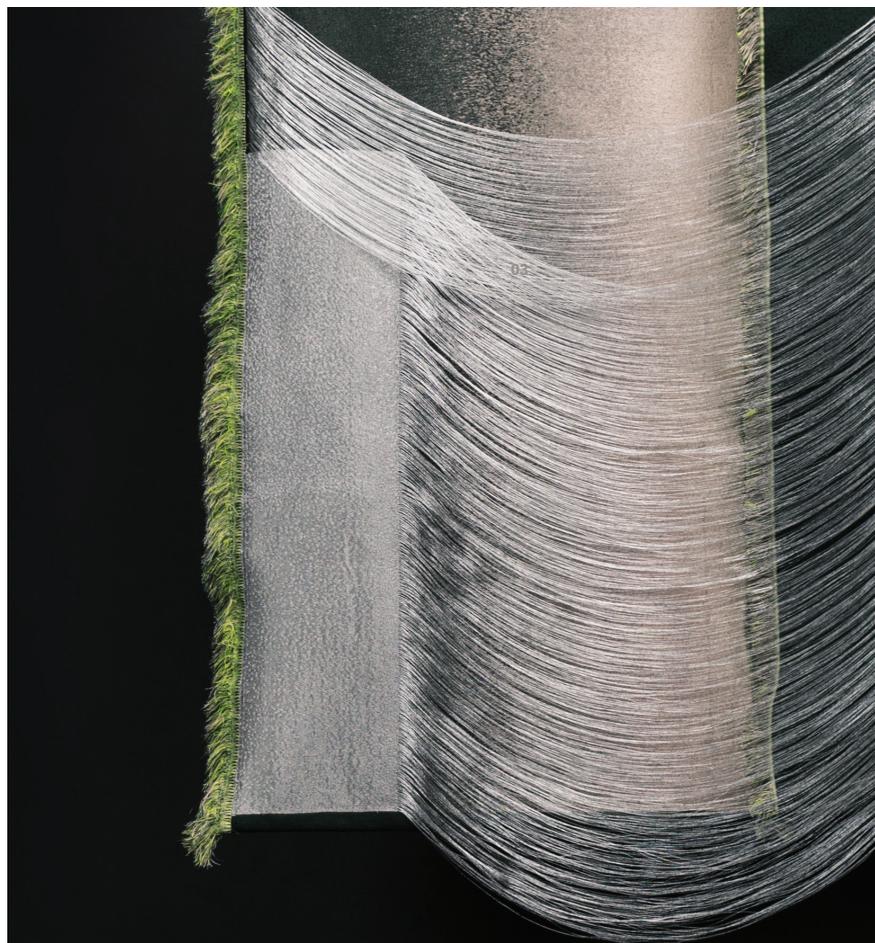
'I start with the material and its qualities, not with a product or outcome,' Schumann states. She tests her ideas at TextielLab in Tilburg. 'It's the best place,' she explains, 'to stretch the limits of weaving'. Schumann's weft floats (and occasionally warp floats) seem supernaturally suspended in the weave. She creates a 'safety net'—a warp thread every 10 cm pulled over the float to secure it—which is later removed.

Schumann uses two commercial mills for her jacquard weaves. Her Swiss mill uses a Trevira warp, while EE Exclusives in The Netherlands use a fine polyester warp for a thinner weave. 'EE help to a limited extent with my ideas,' says Schumann, 'and they're used to small production runs on the side, so I can request a specific time window.'

Similarly to Fontana's slashes which became an 'eloquent visual argument for a radical expansion of the medium [of painting]', Schumann's experimentations with floats and fibres have the potential to 'radically expand' the properties of weaving when she achieves her ultimate goal to design weavings with enhanced acoustic qualities and optical fibre effects. *DJ*

www.marieschumann.de

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