

MAHLIA *“Age-old handicraft embellishes Spring 2015 trendy interior”*



The art of knitting has been practiced for thousands of years, but nobody knows who invented it. We don't even know its origin. The earliest known examples of knitting are stockings found in Egyptian graves. This ancient technique, which creates an elastic textile made from one long thread, is trendier than ever.

Knitted sweaters and scarves, gloves and hats, as well as more delicate knitted fabric and tricot dresses ... These are all essential items in current fashion. For ARTE this was a patently obvious signal that knitted fabric would catch on in trendy interiors.

ARTE always follows trends with Argus' eyes and was inspired by the looping pattern that is so characteristic of knitting. The name of this collection was derived from the Italian word 'maglia', which means loops or stitches. The references in this collection are almost all variations on that theme. Each of them was inspired by traditional clothing, as found in all cultures.

Authentic knitting

The first design – Loop – is a recognisably smooth, calming knit pattern in panels. The knit side, not the purl side. There are monotint and two-tone variations, with a subtle glossy layer, as well as explicitly silver-coloured and gold-coloured references. The colours include cloudy colours like rust, old rose, brownish grey, bluish grey, etc.

Flowery continues the same theme. The base is the same knit pattern with a rather traditional, exuberant flower print on top. Just like wool and textile, the contours are not straight but fuzzy. Every variant is two-toned: brown-pink, brown-grey, light grey-beige, etc.

The third design in the Mahlia collection is called Spiral. It is based on the world famous paisley motif. Paisley is a teardrop-shaped, plant motif that became popular in the West via British India. It was often used for silk ties and cashmere scarves. The asymmetrical nature of this pattern means it can serve all sorts of purposes. By using panels in mirror image, you get a banded effect. It comes in five natural tints, from yellow and grey to sand and aubergine.

Glow is very different and rather daring. As the name suggests, it is an eye-catcher. Glow indirectly refers to the rather striking jewels that were often combined with traditional clothing. The simplicity of knitwear meant that jewels could be more flamboyant. The four brilliant variations (and one matt) have fresh and realistic metallic colours. They seem to be made from hand-processed pieces of tin can or tin foil. Very special!

Initially Crest seems like a rather honest, geometric design, but the relief and lines at right angles bring walls to life. Every time you move or look at it from a different angle, you get a different effect and see depth and relief. The earthly colours make it very special, as if this pattern was created by dragging a comb through clay or loam.

Finally, this collection also includes Gradient. It's a digital print which, unlike the other designs, is used as a panel. It has an extra-large pattern that looks a bit weathered. A reference to old carpets that we treasure now more than ever and which we lovingly (have) restored because we love preserving valuable old things for our descendants.