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Redtextilia in Costa Rica BY SUSAN TABER AVILA



SUSTAINABLE TRADITION & Responsible Innovation were the themes for the **First Encounter** of the **Ibero-American Textile Network** (Redtextilia). This dynamic conference, which took place in San José, Costa Rica (September 6–13, 2010), included numerous textile exhibitions, workshops, and lectures by an international roster of participants.

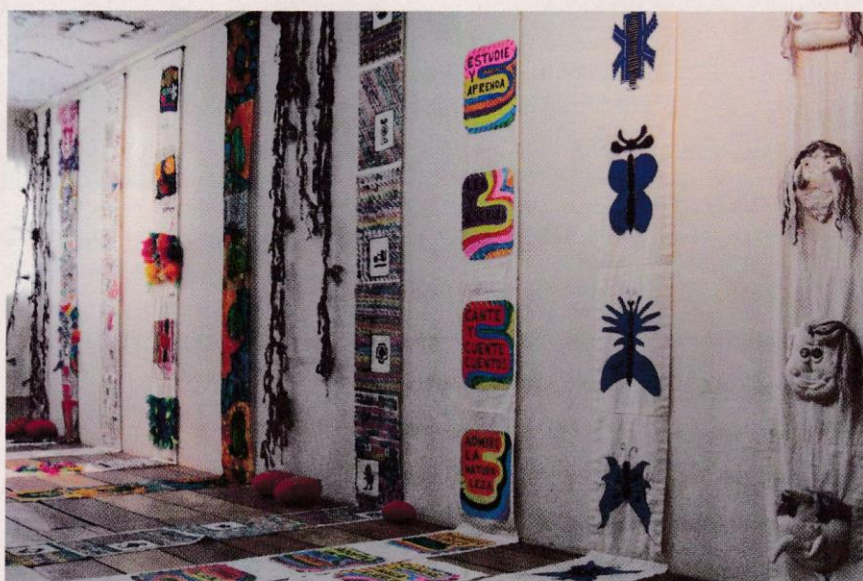
The nonprofit **Redtextilia** group was formed in 2006 by textile creators and individuals dedicated to textile culture in Latin America, Portugal, and Spain. The ambitious First Encounter was spearheaded by its president, **Paulina Ortiz**, and



supported by dedicated board members from several countries, **The Costa Rican Ministry of Culture & Youth**, and many international embassies and cultural centers in Costa Rica.

Extremely diverse and informative lectures punctuated the conference. **Ann Polard Rowe's** overview of Latin American textiles provided a contextual background while **Jessica Hemmings's** "Material Activism" framed directions for the future. **Robert Steele** discussed Afro-American quilts and Afro-American painting, and **Carolyn Kallenborn** showed clips from her forthcoming film on Oaxacan textiles. Other

ABOVE, LEFT: (From left) Paulina Ortiz (president of Redtextilia), Lala de Dios (president of Association of Textile Creators of Madrid), Beatris Sterk (general secretary of the European Textile Network), Candace Edgerley (president of Surface Design Association) and Pilar Tobón (president of the World Textile Art Organization). Photo: Susan Taber Avila. ABOVE, RIGHT: Installation view of the exhibition at the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center (CCCN). Photo: Sue Mei Acón and Pamela Molina. BELOW, LEFT: Kima Guitart (Spain), Geometries; silk; handpainted. Photo: Kima Guitart. BELOW, RIGHT: Installation view (one room of many) of work by Silvia Piza-Tandlich and her students at the Costa Rican National Museum. Photo: Susan Taber Avila.



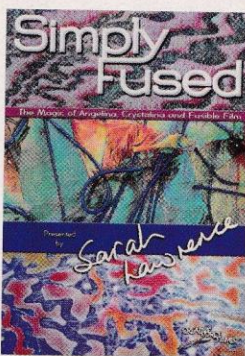
talks addressed contemporary textiles in Spain, Portugal, Peru, Holland, and the United States.

The lectures occurred throughout San José, conveniently in the same venues as the invitational and juried exhibitions. Exhibition highlights included a site-specific installation by **Silvia Piza-Tandlich**, who refurnished the basement of the National Museum in textile fantasy; this two-year project utilized the existing features of the former dungeon, re-vamping washroom fixtures and jail-cell graffiti. **Suave (Soft) 4, Fourth International Textile Fashion Accessories Biennale**, organized by the **Association of Textile Creators of Madrid** (Asociación de Creadores Textiles de Madrid; ACTM) and installed at the Spanish Cultural Centre, showcased an array of intriguing wearables, including **Annelies Slabbynck's** disquieting collar embellished with real human teeth and sublime gestural silk shawls by **Kima Guitart**.

As this was the first official gathering of Redtextilia, an interesting conversational thread was the viability of textile organizations. **Lala de Dios**, president of ACTM, introduced strategies for success based on business models, and **Andrea Fischer** shared her experience forming the **Chile Crea Textil Association**. Other contributing voices throughout the conference included **Beatrijs Sterk**, editor of *Textile Forum* and general secretary of the **European Textile Network (ETN)**, **Candace Edgerley**, president of **Surface Design Association (SDA)**, and **L'Merchie Frazier**, from the **Women of Color Quilters Network (WCQN)**. Everyone agreed on the magic of uniting in common interest while acknowledging the ironic difficulty of getting people to participate in group events. This is the challenge for Redtextilia as it plans future encounters. Thankfully, it's off to a good start. www.redtextilia.org.

DVD RELEASES

- Textile artist and teacher **Sarah Lawrence** has released a new DVD titled *Simply Fused*.



In it, Lawrence teaches the viewer a wide range of techniques for using Angelina and Crystalina, including stamping and adding color and texture.

www.craftynotions.com/simplyfused.htm.

- **Nadine Spier** has also released a DVD, *Basket Weaving Essentials with Nadine Spier*, which

features many of the techniques that she teaches in her workshops. In the two-hour tutorial, viewers learn the swirling basic stitch, solid warp stitch,



how to insert beads, and much more. www.nadinespier.com.

- Textile artist **Kathyanne White** has recently released her eBook, *Design Intriguing Surfaces*, which highlights



techniques for utilizing Photoshop and a home printer to make custom fabric prints on anything from canvas to silk.

www.kathyanneart.com.

REGINA BENSON
www.reginabenson.com