



Bloom

a horti-cultural view

earth matters



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bleeding threads

textiles and photos Femke van Gemert and Leo Veger
text Lidewij Edelkoort





Through travel, observations and residencies she absorbs influences that translate into bleeding colour; penetrating the cloth as the blood of slaves, the sweat of labour dripping like the pain of the earth. The strident sounds of birds and the heady scent of fruits are woven into the layered ecstasy of her fiber art. The sensuous tremor of Brazilian culture stirs the soul of this Dutch woman's work and adds another sensitive layer to her practice. The erotic thrill that forms the anima of the Brazilian people has slipped into her unruly embrace of matter and volume, matter and pigment, matter as a mode of expression. The work is both contemporary and ancient, going back to periods of poverty and hardship. Her critique on waste is akin to the beauty born from leftovers, in a melancholic mood.

Scraps of sentimental encounters and intimate connections with other people's lives and wardrobes put the discovery of other cultures at the core of the anthropological textile art of Femke van Gemert.

She has intuitively invented her tools from scratch and she borrows materials from her encounters, ripping bits and pieces of fabrics from the source, dissecting and reconstructing her findings. The dense languages that result from her concentrated practice resonate with her empathy for the human condition.

