

**Annemor Sundbø,
Ose in Setesdal,
NORWAY**

KNITTING IN ART

I will tell about the cultural heritage in knitting, the wellspring that everyone can draw from, build on, add to, and develop for future generations. My presentation is about the origins and evolution where the story is told by showing how artworks can be used to discuss knitting history even if the artists didn't have that in mind when they painted.

Often people dressed in knitted clothing were depicted so precisely that the knitting can be copied stitch by stitch. Artworks also contain invisible lead threads tied to stories about knitting not immediately apparent in the pictures.

Old photographs, historic newspaper articles, and descriptions from many people has guided me to discover exciting cultural history incorporating faith, superstition, politics, and technical inventions.

I add all this information with yarns and techniques found in old knitted remnants and create updated designs for knitters and anyone interested in cultural heritage.

From 1983 to 2007 I did run the last remaining shoddy factory in Norway, Torridal Tweed og Ulldynfabrikk. The products was made of recycled wool. The storage bins was a treasure trove of knitting patterns and cultural history. I have tried to unravel the fascinating history of traditional knitting by investigating a pile of knitted rags. This rag pile reveals the close historical ties between everyday knitting in Norway and traditional knitting in Europe and are described in my books:

Everyday Knitting, Treasures from a Ragpile.
(Translated by Amy Lightfoot.)

Setesdal Sweaters The History of the Norwegian Lince Patteren.
(Translated by Amy Lightfoot)

Invisible Treads in Knitting.
(Translated by Carol H. Rhoades)

Strikking i billedkunsten - Knitting in Art
(Translated by Carol H. Rhoades)

... and translated Terri Shea's book: "Selbuvotter" a Biography of A Knitting Tradition."- to Norwegian 2009 which contains 17 pair of mitten from my "rag pile".

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