

ARLETTE VERMEIREN  
ENTRELACEMENTS

Exhibition: January 19 – March 4, 2023

Opening: Thursday, January 19 from 4PM to 8PM with the artist in attendance



Arlette Vermeiren, *Untitled (detail)*, 2022  
Recycled silk papers  
300 x 400 cm approx.

*"Unlike Penelope in Ithaca, Arlette Vermeiren does not long for any return. With paper, a medium for optimism and musicality, she transports us to new sceneries awaiting. Tissue papers in pursuit of our selves."*

Jean-Pierre Vlasselaer

Arlette Vermeiren says her passion for interweaving threads of textile materials started at an early age. Whether these were Flemish tapestries, or the debris of fishing nets found on the beach. Enchanted ever since by the process of knotting, Arlette gathers every piece of fabric she stumbles upon. Her compulsion for knots feeds her attraction towards spinning, weaving and assembling.

It all began in 1988, when the artist became a gleaner. She started collecting and amassing a collection of printed tissue paper, and various packaging of citrus, melons, candy, cookies, gifts, etc. With the allure and the hands of a fairy, she accumulates in her apartment her many treasures and more than ten thousand books constituting an inexhaustible supply of references, knowledge, various materials related to her medium of escape, textiles.

As the artist cuts and spins her material, paper loses its finish, its consistency, and turns into textile or fiber. From her irrepressible will to collect everything that in her eyes offers a potential for assembling, the spinner starts knotting to create canvases, nets, curtains, and immense floating sets of fascinating weightlessness. Their quivering lightness and transparency define her creative style, with a somehow musical rhythm. Arlette opens new paths and reinvents her own creative process with infinite potential.

Arlette's works become large aerial compositions which rustle as their constituting knots are not tight closing points. On the contrary, they play a part in the artist's practice of interweaving. With constant accuracy, her eye understands space and reveals its essence. It strengthens her style and her spin on life, accentuates lines of force, sometimes through contradiction. So is the case with the large tapestry she created for this exhibition: a three by four meter composition made of white silk paper to which the artist brings touches of color. She organizes the deployment of her material by alternating threads that respond to each other and bring out specific forms. She invites us into an enveloping world of color. She combines Celadon or Veronese blues and greens with dusty pinks and enigmatic beiges for an aesthetic intoxication.

Born in Belgium in 1937, Arlette Vermeiren is currently living and working in Brussels. Her works have been included in the collections of the Boghossian Foundation, the Contemporary Art Museum in Luxembourg, Tournai's Tapestry and Textile Arts Museum in Belgium, and the Musée de la Haute Provence in Gap, France.

She graduated from the École nationale supérieure des arts visuels of La Cambre in 1963 and taught screen printing for thirty-two years at the Académie de Tournai. From 1998 to 2017, she was also the artistic director of textile/contemporary art research at TAMAT, Tournai's Tapestry and Textile Arts Museum.