



The Next Normal

Ecobalance 2021

südwollegroup

What was going on last year?



What was going on last year?

Welcome to our latest Ecobalance!

Let's face it - we could talk about Covid and how it has disrupted our daily lives, but let's focus on the positive effects that have occurred in 2020 - they exist!

The past year has proven to us once again that our common priority must be to find new, different ways to produce in a more environmentally friendly way and to reuse what we have.

That's why we decided to make **a special feature about our certified recycled yarns**, to show what we do in order to get one step closer to moving away from using non-renewable fibre sources!

Have fun reading this Ecobalance and get inspired – if you discover new ideas for recycling unusual materials yourself, feel free to share them with us :)!

Ewelina and Elisa
from the Südwolle Group
MarketingTeam



I like to thank our young agile team for putting together this edition of the Ecobalance.

Enjoy reading!

Hans-Georg,
Managing Director Sales

This issue:



Behind the scenes



Our recycled fibres



GRS



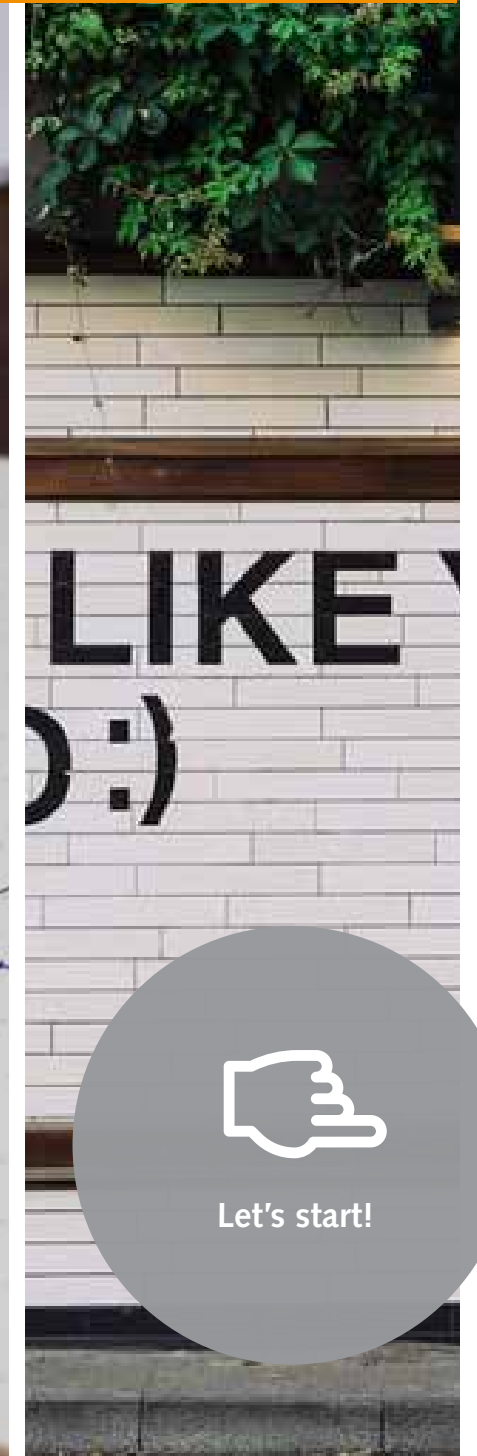
From waste to fibre



Conny, the GRS wooltop



Objective measures



Social commitment



Let's start!

Behind the scenes of being certified

Requirements

Each stage of the production needs to be certified.

Each relevant location is audited on a yearly basis.

There are many more important certificates besides the GRS!

Our reactions

All our dyehouses and spinning mills are already certified – We're just working on getting our latest member, Dalat Worsted Spinning, certified

Together, the departments need to prepare a wide variety of documentation, e.g. process and system plans, transaction certificates, physical and chemical test plans, etc.

In addition, we comply with 20 other certifications and beyond that other customer-specific certifications.

Our challenges

Lots of manpower is needed for setting up and maintaining a good certification management system.

Currently we have 16 locations worldwide which are audited on a regular basis and are already working on the next two ones.

Every certificate is different – one does not automatically fulfil the others



There are some challenges, but recycling and re-using what we already have cannot be only a niche trend! It needs to become the industry standard! And that's why a GRS certification is definitely worth it!



Thank you to Mara for providing us with all the insights on getting certified!

That's how many recycled fibres we already use!

2 from blends
of post-, pre-consumer
and virgin sources

11 from
post-consumer
waste

12 from
pre-consumer
waste

19 recycled
polyester fibres

1 recycled
cotton fibre

1 recycled
wool fibre

6 recycled
polyamide fibres

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS)



The Global Recycled Standard verifies recycled content and tracks it from the source to the final product.

What's the GRS about?

Establish one common understanding of the term „recycled“.

Support consumers in taking better informed buying decisions.

Maintain the identity of a recycled product from its source to the end product.

Drive higher percentages of recycled contents in products.

What to consider for GRS certified material?



Yarn

At least 20% recycled content



End product

At least 50% recycled content



Important

to be considered when blending different materials!

Who needs to be certified?

Every producing member of the supply chain but not the final brand!



What else to consider for the GRS certification?



Strict social and environmental requirements for production sites



Consumption and emission data needs to be present and goals for their reduction need to be established



Potentially harmful chemicals are banned



Employees must be trained in water and energy conservation and waste separation

From all this waste fibres can be made!



The Global Recycled Standard verifies recycled content and tracks it from the source to the final product.



Thanks to André for providing all the info!

Unused polyester textiles and used polyester clothing
RENU™ recycled polyester
GRS certified

Upcycled Marine Waste
SEAQUAL™ recycled polyester
GRS certified

Shells of shellfish as waste of the food industry called Chitosan



And we are constantly discovering new materials for recycling!



Production waste
Recycled polyamide
Recycled polyamide filament
GRS certified

Fishing nets
Recycled polyamide
GRS certified

PET bottles
COOLMAX® EcoMade recycled polyester
GRS certified

Wool from our own production waste

The journey of the little GRS certified wooltop...

Hi there!
I'm Conny!

A GRS certified yarn cone
dreaming of becoming
a GRS certified t-shirt one day.

Let me tell you about
my journey!



go to the next page
to find out more

The journey of the little GRS certified wooltop...



My mum
is a Merino ewe
at our sheep farm Mount
Hesse in Victoria, Australia.



My dad
once was
a discarded
PET bottle.



My mum's wool was
shorn, cleaned and
delivered to our dyehouse
in Germany to be dyed.



My dad was depolymerized
(R.I.P. ☹️) and spun
into a new
polyester fibre ☺️!

The journey of the little GRS certified wooltop



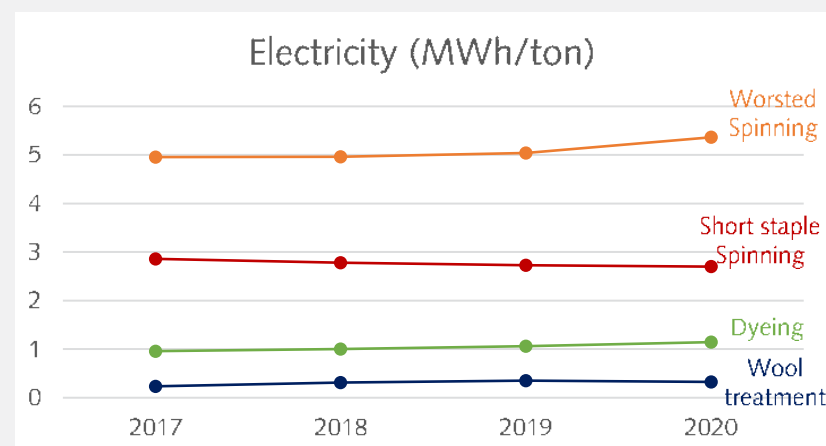
Then, it was like for the bees and the flowers:
Mum's dyed wooltop was combined with dad's
polyester fibre in our spinning mill in Poland and
the result was...



Our objective measures

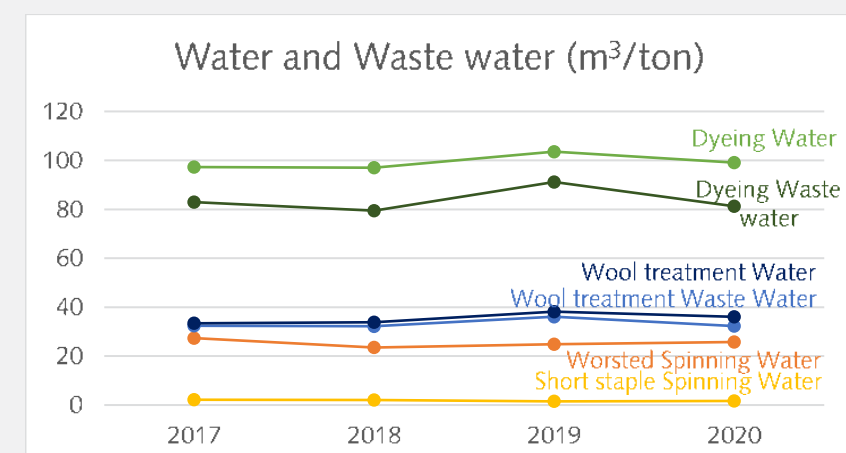
Electricity

In 2020, we had a significant reduction in production volume due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This is reflected in all our objective measures, but especially in an increase in electricity for worsted spinning, as some machines had to continue operating despite the lower production volume.



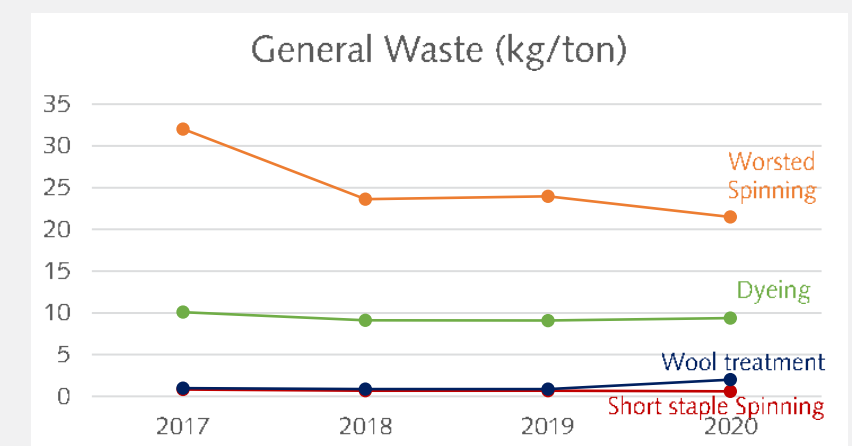
Water and Waste Water

Water consumption for dyeing has been reduced by implementing new Bellini Pulsar dyeing vessels, which save 20% of the process water. As a result, this leads to less wastewater.



General Waste

The peak in general waste in 2017 results from clearing out our spinning facilities.

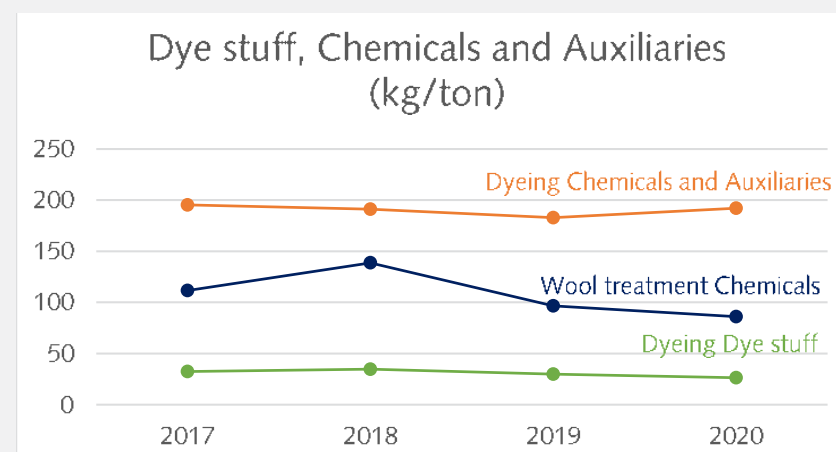


Our objective measures

Dye stuff, Chemicals and Auxiliaries

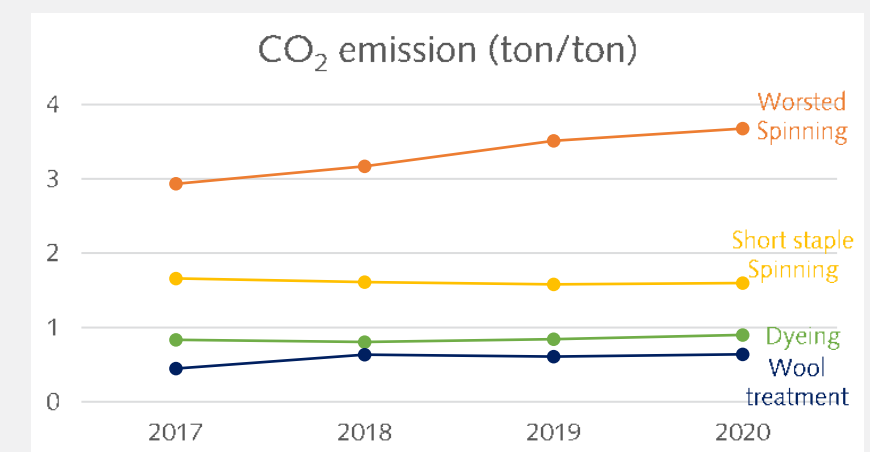
Since 2020, additional chemical consumption for dyeing has been caused by our recently installed wastewater treatment plant. We now treat our wastewater in an additional step before we discharge it into the municipal water treatment system. In this way, we are reducing the impact on the environment, but see an increase in chemicals on our record.

In our wool treatment plant we were able to reduce the use of chemicals by optimizing the process.



CO₂ emmision

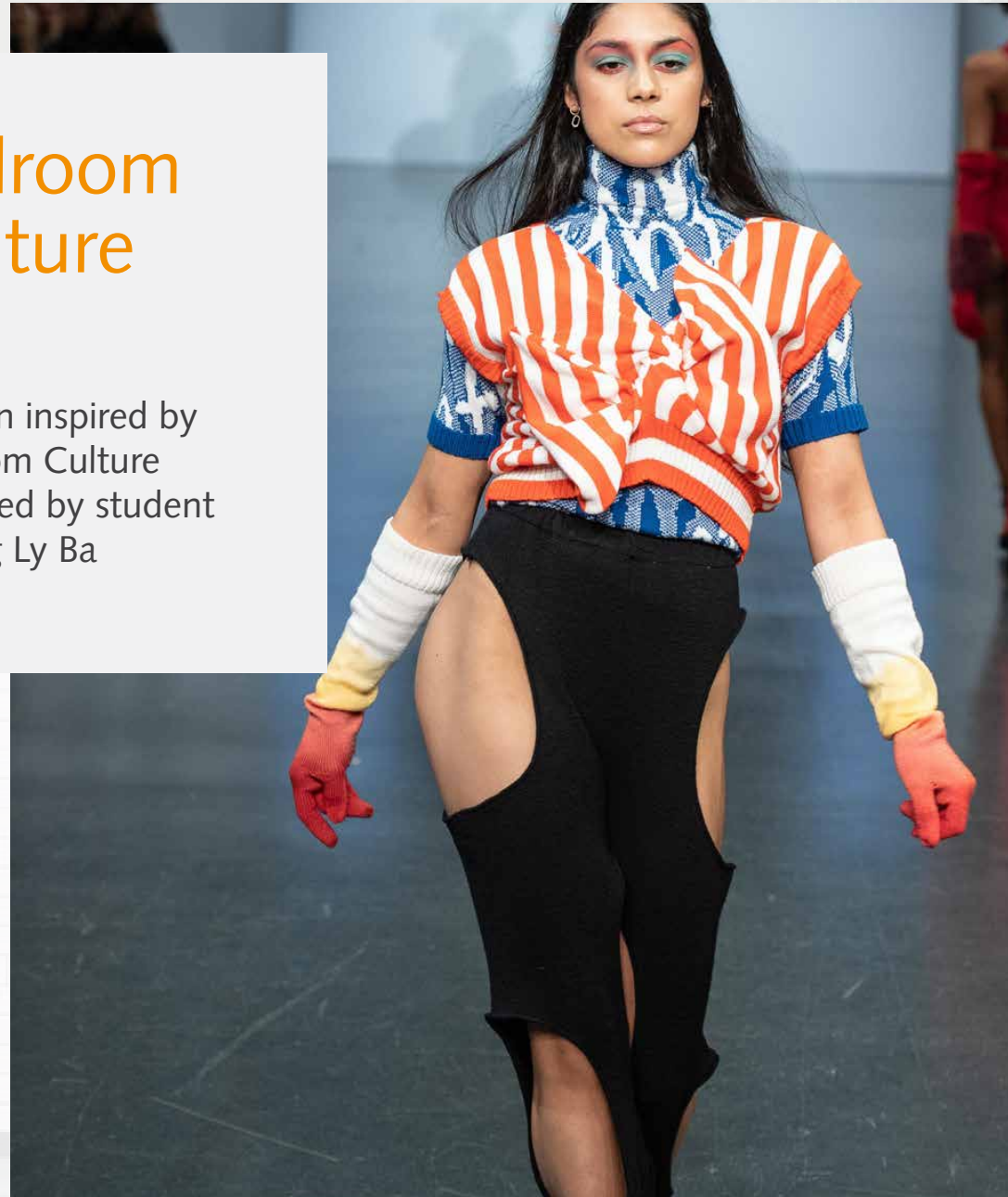
At our worsted spinning mills, some devices have to be kept at a certain level in order to continue operation. With last year's lower production volume, this has caused an increased emission value per tonne.



Our social commitment

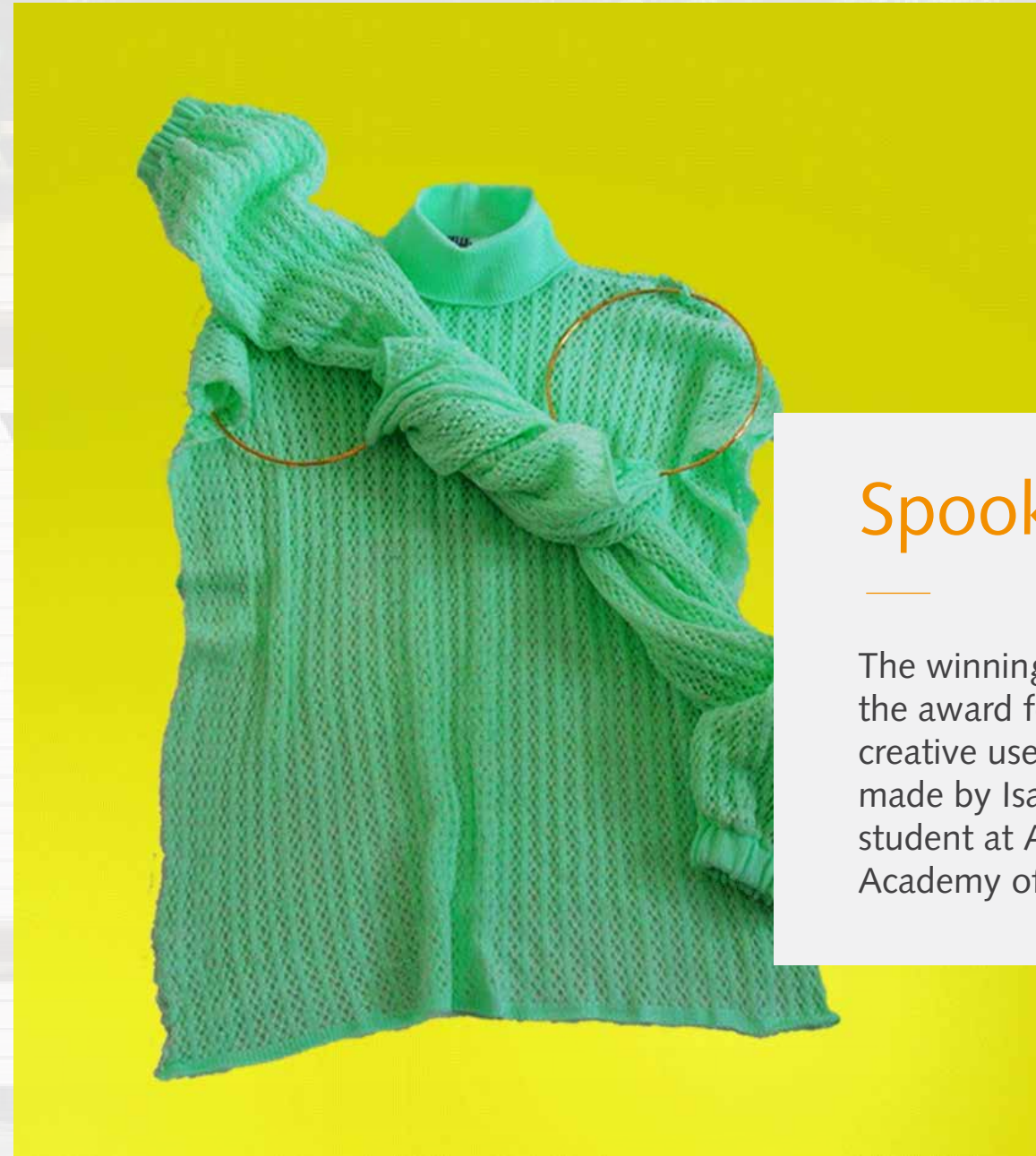
Ballroom Culture

Fashion inspired by
Ballroom Culture
designed by student
Duong Ly Ba



Spooktacular

The winning design of
the award for the most
creative use of Merino
made by Isabelle Lempik,
student at Antwerp Royal
Academy of Fine Arts.



Our social commitment

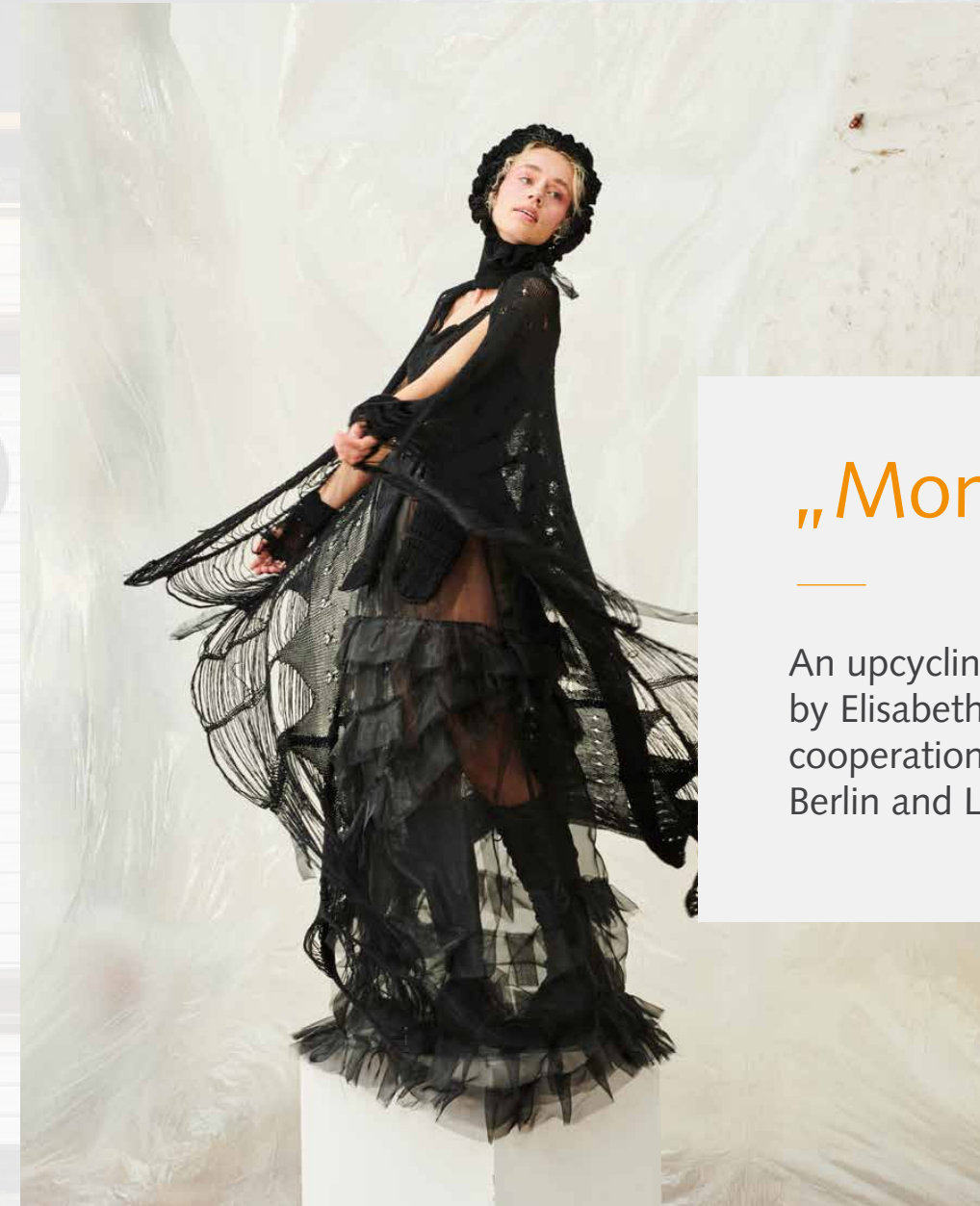
Resort wear with a touch of aesthetics

Designed by Rowan Calvert,
NTU Fashion Knitwear
Graduate.



„Monstrous“

An upcycling project
by Elisabetha Engel in
cooperation with HTW
Berlin and LPJ Studios.



Our social commitment

Carl Blum House

An old people's home located in Sadoroschje, Russia.

The area is very poor and many elderly people cannot live with their small pension.

We support the preservation of the nursing home financially to set an example for dignified living in old age.



Paclisa

A home for disabled in Transylvania, Romania.

In one of the poorest countries in Europe, often not much is left for helping the socially disadvantaged.

We financially support the construction and expansion of the home for disabled.



Our social commitment

Australian Farm Management Scholarship

On a yearly basis, we support a young promising student in studying Farm Management at Marcus Odham College, Australia.

The scholarship offers a platform for passionate young individuals to build a successful career and make a difference to the broader agricultural industry.



Thank You for reading!

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