

Abstract

Title: Toward a Poetics of Fibre Art and Design: Aesthetic and Acoustic Qualities of Hand-tufted Materials in Interior Spatial Design

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Keywords: Fibre art, acoustics, interior design, hand tufting, sculpture, practice-based research, productive science, poetics, emotional expression, unity

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This inquiry explores the aesthetic and acoustic qualities of fibre art and design. The goal is to understand how the manner of hand tufting, the selection of fibre materials, and the creation of two- and three-dimensional forms can work together to solve problems of interior design. The strategy of the inquiry is “productive science” or “poetics.” The strength of this approach is the combination of analysis and synthesis. It begins with analysis of the functional elements of fibre art. This includes a description and explanation of the technique of hand tufting as well as scientific and technical studies of the aesthetic and acoustic properties of a variety of fibre materials. It then proceeds to consider the problem of creative artistic synthesis by focusing on the integration of all of the functional elements that are involved in creating works of fibre art and design. The centrepiece of this research is the creation of an ensemble of three fibre art works for the Jonsereds herrgård, a manor house of historical importance in Göteborg, Sweden. One work is a large fibre art hanging installed on the central wall of the grand dining room of the Manor. The other works are two fibre art sculptures, also sited in the dining room. These are innovative examples of fibre art as a functional design art. The inquiry concludes with a reflection on the nature of unity in art and design. One of the central claims of this research is that perception, meaning, and emotional expression work together in creating the unity or wholeness of the products of art and design. The discussion develops this idea through consideration of the work of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Roland Barthes, and John Dewey. This leads to a discussion of the intelligibility of emotional expression and the criterion of the compelling correctness of an artist’s decisions in creating a work of art or design.