

Textile Museum St.Gallen

**The *Palazzo Rosso* in St. Gallen's Old Town has been the home of the Textile Museum and the Textile Library ever since 1886. Thousands of pattern books, designs, fashion photographs, magnificent textiles, flamboyant garments, needlework utensils and the demonstration of a hand embroidery machine take visitors into a world of imagination, creativity and technological feats.**

The museum and its collections

The collection portrays the multifaceted history of the textile branch, its highs and lows, from the beginnings up into the present. Among the highlights of the collection are late antique fabrics from Coptic graves in Egypt, historical embroideries from the 14th century on, handmade lace from major European lace-making centers, ethnological textiles, historical fabrics and costumes, needlework utensils, and contemporary textile art objects. The hand- and machine-embroideries as well as fabric prints document the impressive development of the textile industry in Eastern Switzerland. Internationality and regional rootedness, flexible reactions to impulses from outside, and independent developments have characterized Swiss textile production from the start. To locate it within this web of inputs, own creativity and world-wide interaction is one of the chief purposes of the Textile Museum St. Gallen.

The collections of the Textile Museum and Library St. Gallen date back to the second half of the 19th century and follow in the tradition of the museums of applied arts and design and sample collections founded throughout Europe at that time. Their purpose was to inspire industry, to serve as models for production, and also to cultivate "good taste". In 1863 the *Kaufmännisches Direktorium* – the Association of St. Gallen's Merchants – begins to specifically collect pattern samples for local manufacturers and to systematically expand the existing collection. The museum is founded in 1878. In the course of time the collection is extended through acquisitions, but above all through the donations of significant private collections and textile industry archives. The collections of the industrialist family Iklé are of utmost importance. Today the museum remains dedicated to the founding concept of being a source of inspiration for designers and innovators.

Exhibition program

The exhibition program - including a permanent exhibition and 2 to 3 temporary shows per year – contributes to the museum's reputation as one of the most important Swiss centers for questions regarding textile production in the context of general cultural-historical developments. On the basis of its collections, the Textile Museum establishes international references beyond the geographical area of Switzerland and reveals interdependencies and creative special developments.

Further details on the exhibitions can be found at:

[www.textilmuseum.ch/en/category/exhibitions-en/current-exhibitions-en/](http://www.textilmuseum.ch/en/category/exhibitions-en/current-exhibitions-en/)

Press contact

Visual material can be found in the press section of our website  
[www.textilmuseum.ch/presse/](http://www.textilmuseum.ch/presse/)

We will gladly send you more information.

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Hours and admission

Opening hours: daily from 10 am to 5 pm

Adults: 12 CHF/ Senior citizens, AHV/IV: 10 CHF/ Groups over 10 persons: 9 CHF/  
Children and young people up to 18 years: free admission