

Retextil is a complex system of employment, rehabilitation and instruction.

The employed people with changed working ability (mainly psychiatric patients) produce common places and furnishings.



Retextil is a technique; we make new thread from textile waste. It uses ancient methods such as spinning, weaving and looping to make “Retextil threads”. From these we produce different kinds of furnishings, common places and things created through the therapy of rehabilitation. Retextil technology was invented in Pécs, Hungary, by Angela Theisz.

Retextil is a method. It is a *social-therapeutic* activity where people with changed working abilities work as members of a community using the Retextil method. Retextil is a productil activity, at the same time, this activity improves the participants’s skills and it is also a good opportunity to learn from each other and to cooperate and experience what community is about. Everybody is a part of the “big creation”.

The main motive of the therapy is to understand the hidden metaphor of the textile’s language (the system of connections), then to live it in the human relations. This realization gets across experientially.

Retextil is a community space, which is brought to life by the Retextil technology and method. The elements of this space vary from huge hassocks, partitions and lamps to installations. These, placed into spaces of schools, hospitals or old people’s homes may help to create community spaces. At same time Retextil products are popular and useful furnishings and décors of cultural programs. These spectacular community spaces are built up several times a year by “Retextil Tribe traveling workshop”.

Retextil is a community space; the elements of this are lamps, carpets, swings, hanging flower-cups, where the people rocks together or they roll about in huge kind of mattress.

The retextil common space takes place on the premises in optimal case, by local people, from their own wasted textiles, creating together for common aim. This is the rehabilitation of the local community, common art action. You can do this at home in the same way as well.



The Retextil Tribe is a traveller workshop, teaches method and builds temporary receiving places in their tent what made by recycled materials. This is the pillar of the Hungarian common-art ambition. The aim of this is to rebuild the destroyed communities, therefore the social capital become stronger.

The Retextil training is an education of art, environment and therapeutic activity, what can be accessible through the EU Grundtvig adult education program or the open workshop in Pécs. Our training has a focus on the procedure of rehabilitation, what brings together the practice of social and art therapy with the employment of disabled people. (The Retextil trainers have some kind of impairment).

The Retextil is an industrial art product and luxury. It made by hand, unique, 100% recycling object. The Retextil products are often taking part of fashion shows, festivals and exhibitions. We can say that Retextil is a way of thinking, a plain and exemplary reaction to the social problems and environmental challenges of the 21th century.

Retextil Manufactura and workshop

We employ 20 people with changed working ability at present – mental hygienical problem, chronically sick and disabled (more and more would like to work with us) – and 2 professional leaders.

Our primary purpose is the rehabilitation, which has no mode in supported employment for the moment at Hungary. The state only supports the cost of employment in case of 50 people's workplace; otherwise it sets a high income compulsion so it makes the therapeutic activity impossible.

Our monthly estimate in the workshop is 1.700 000 HUF, our deficiency is 900 000 HUF, what signifies the expenses of place, helpers, transport and the management. We try to retrieve the lack of maintenance from the activities of arts and education, what brings about 3-5 million HUF from the 15-20 event of civil service annually.

The production of a "belly button-armchair" takes the processing of 200 clothes and requires about 200 working hour at least. That is the reason why our products are too dear to the average native customers and to the public institutions.

As being a civil institution, also makes it almost impossible obtaining access to the Hungarian market of instruction, thus it is the hardest to submit our knowledge in this country. We educate the Open Workshop, as well as those people who arrive from distance and they are interested, in the way of voluntary work, while the professional leaders of foundation are not in command of fixed income.

2 means, alternative in the direction of sustainability:

- We find customers for our common places and objects, who can afford our individual, space-specific, never seen this work of art's appearance.
- We find sponsor, who support our retextil products and common places to be placing in institutions of health, education and social welfare (hospital, children's home, rehabilitation institute, early education centre) by taking a back-seat of society resp.,
- They help to setting out those products what are assistance of the people with developmental needs (disabled) and it gives improvement for their quality of life.

In case of these the customer, or the sponsor determine where and what to be prepared by us. The Retextil technology can be used for non-recycled material as well; therefore we design and make objects / common places most likely from new basic materials.

Our mission is to keep the workshop up, so we can give the chance to people with illness or disadvantage. In this way they can assert themselves to be identical part of the society and be to themselves again.

The only way being accessible to the native profession of development and support, if we have the resource for it. We haven't achieved it so far.

Programs of the Retextil Foundation in 2008

24. - 31. 03. 2008: Recycling Art exhibition; symposium and workshop with hungarian and french artists Cooperating with Alliances Frances de Pécs, Recycle Mission Hungary, and the agency of European Capital of Culture.

04. 2008. Community art Action and workshop in Dunaújváros (public art action) along with "Dunaújvárosi Kortárs képzőművészeti Központtal" (Modern Art Centre of Dunaújváros), HINTS Institute, and German artists, thereof, how can the art utilize in the local developing.

07.-14. Retextil Grundtvig training.

24.-31. 05. 2008. Common-art action in Pécs. We will create a „Recycling Agora” in the wasted town place with local people. Here we will arrange an exhibition and concerts. The aim of this activity, that we “lay a road” together between city centre and the coming culture quarter - which is the most slum section (with social and cultural fallbacks) at Pécs.

We will liberate by the help of the art-common actions and the international experiences the local power equipments and we will implicate the local economic developing.

06. 2008. Retextil Grundtvig training.

07. 2008. Valley of the Arts in Kapolcs. Recycling backyard, where we will present our products, and technology.

08. 2008. Art - workshop in Grand Parc in Lyon, which is a beloved resting place of town, organize by ABI/ABO (art be in/art be out Summer University in Kunbábony (Hungary): “Common-developing and art action conference”

09. 2008. Recycling art exhibition and symposium in Budapest: “Art and society conference”

Besides, our products and common places participate several programs in Hungary: Student Island, Movie festivals, musician festivals, exhibitions, Day of the Earth...

Our continual activity from 2006, that we attend the therapeutic workshop in psychotherapeutic and psychiatric rehabilitation institute, what is the first in Hungary - Thalassza House in Budapest.

