



finn sködt

Born 1944

“Colours touch the soul, like music”.

A colour expert, painter and graphic artist who has been a key influence on Kvadrat’s sense of colour.

From his home and workshop, situated in attractive surroundings in Helgenæs, Finn Sködt works with textile design, graphic design, industrial design, painting, sculpture, decoration, colour composition, ceramics and plate glass. He actually trained as a graphic artist at the Graphic Institute of Denmark, Copenhagen, after spending some time at the Aarhus Academy of Fine Arts.

His collaboration with Kvadrat has a special story to it. He has been producing upholstery and curtain material for Kvadrat since the early 1980s and has in addition created colour schemes for textiles by several other designers associated with the company. He is also very much involved in the material that represents the company outwardly.

The idiom of both his graphic art and his textiles is pure and aesthetic, often featuring his favourite colour: ultramarine blue.

“Colours are fluid and the colour blue, especially, is always going somewhere,” says Finn Sködt.

Ultramarine actually means blue from the other side of the ocean. This is apparently because the colour was first imported from China, where the blue gemstone Lapis Lazuli was crushed down to a precious blue colorant.

According to Finn Sködt, colours have an autonomy about them - an ability to elude any system. Colours should be perceived in the pigment and in the fabric, not in some colour system.

What is so fascinating about colours is that they are easy to deal with, but at the same time difficult. Colours are at the same time tangible and abstract. They are immediately visible to the intuitive, observant eye, but when you try to systematise them from a distance, they are elusive.

Finn Sködt seldom uses the word ‘trend’; instead, he uses the expression ‘temporal effect’ or ‘spirit of the times’.

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“It is a matter of knowing colours and having worked with them for a long time. That way, after a while, you can almost predict forthcoming colours.”

What others call inspiration, Finn Sködt prefers to call ‘working with things’. According to Finn Sködt, you cannot “simply sit around waiting for inspiration to come”. The path is not necessarily from idea to implementation; sometimes it works the other way around. In other words, art is work.