



## *frans dijkmeijer*

Born 1936

**“When weaving become a science”**

Frans Dijkmeijer was born in Helmond in 1936. After leaving school, he started at the Academy of Industrial Design in Eindhoven. At the time, the academy was conceived along the same lines as the Bauhaus school and offered subjects in three areas: industrial design, promotion and textiles.

Frans Dijkmeijer started working as a designer for Kendix textiles in order to earn money to pay for his materials. He received the prestigious “Gouden Kenteken” prize for a number of his textiles.

After a couple of years at Kendix, his success as a textile designer took him to Artex (Brabantse Textielmaatschappij Artex), where he became head of design with responsibility for the company’s designers and the many jacquard machines.

In 1966, Weverij de Ploeg individually headhunted Frans Dijkmeijer, asking him to work for them as a designer. It was a unique opportunity for Dijkmeijer – working for de Ploeg was the ultimate position a textile designer in the Netherlands could aspire to at that time. He was to become a key figure in the development of de Ploeg’s textiles.

In 1980, Frans Dijkmeijer and his family decided to move to France, where he continued his work as a freelance designer.

Dijkmeijer’s contact with Kvadrat was initiated in 1992 through Piet van Eijken, Kvadrat’s Dutch manager at the time. Since then, Frans Dijkmeijer has created a large number of upholstery textiles for Kvadrat and has proved to be a key figure in weaving at European level.

To Dijkmeijer, design is a process in which materials, colours and textures are perceived as an organic whole. Just as clouds, fire and water change formations if just a single thing changes, so too can a single element change the overall expression of a design. Accordingly, harmony of the elements is fundamental to Dijkmeijer’s designs.

The scope of the materials and the weaving techniques are the greatest source of inspiration to Dijkmeijer. His strict registration and systematisation of the work have become something of a science.

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His studio is more like a laboratory where, through experimenting with types of yarn and weaving methods, he constantly seeks solutions in weaving-technique to problems of his own creation. Characteristic of Dijkmeijer's woven textiles is that, despite their extreme technical complexity, they nevertheless radiate an almost mathematical and logical simplicity.

In 2000, he received the Profiel prize in the Netherlands for his versatility as a designer to the textile industry. For that occasion, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam displayed a retrospective exhibition of his textiles. The Stedelijk Museum is one of the most prestigious museums in the Netherlands, with a permanent exhibition including works by Rembrandt, Mondrian, Cézanne and Kandinsky.