



## *jeroen vinken*

Born 1955

**“Repetition – but never the same”**

Jeroen Vinken was born in the Netherlands in 1955. He studied at the Academy of Industrial Design, Eindhoven. His subject was textile design and he was a pupil of Frans Dijkmeijer, amongst others, who also designs for Kvadrat.

He produced his first textile collection in the early 1980s, intended for use as curtains. They were hand printed and the aim was never to repeat the pattern. He developed his ideas and technical solutions with a view to avoiding traditional repetition. Because he was printing by hand, he wanted to avoid producing items that could be produced equally well or even better industrially. This idea has become one of the key features of Jeroen’s design philosophy – he always endeavours to add something new, something that does not already exist – a functional “extra” over and above what already exists. He is inspired by techniques and materials and by investigating how they can be used in new and different ways. He finds it natural to make use of the possibilities afforded by modern technology – technology, however, that would be meaningless without his unerring sense of aesthetics and appreciation of the material.

Nowadays, computer-controlled weaving is becoming increasingly widespread and this has given Jeroen tremendous scope for reviving his earlier ideas and realising them as industrial products. He began by developing designs on a digitally guided loom at Tilburg’s Textile Museum in the Netherlands; this museum runs a project giving artists and designers the opportunity to work in the Museum’s workshop. The purpose of the project is twofold: on the one hand, visitors to the museum can see the most modern textile techniques being demonstrated and, on the other, visionary designers like Jeroen are given the opportunity to develop their ideas. Much of his work has now been incorporated into the museum’s collection.

Jeroen Vinken’s collection for Kvadrat marks the first industrial application of his ideas developed at the museum.

“Introducing the computer to jacquard weaving added a whole new dimension – and I can see endless possibilities for creating new items using this technique.”

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In addition to his industrial and practical design projects, Jeroen also works in the world of art – including painting and sculpture, as well as tapestries created on a computer-guided loom.

Jeroen Vinken's works have been exhibited in a number of different countries and in numerous museums including Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum, the Textile Museum, Tilburg, and the Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York.