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**Registration of artistic work “Google Weaving Stop-time”; project for 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial (Turkey), workshop during 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial, “Designers Conversations” during 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial, workshop and presentation of project at Nova Iskra, Zemun (Serbia) during Iaspis Artist Residency, participation in group-exhibition “Power/Personal Power” by Omforma at Malmö Form/Design Centre (Sweden).**

“Google Weaving Stop-time” is a project designed by myself and includes several components: an online weaving community on Facebook seen as a space for sharing knowledge about rya weaving, and an exhibition of a collective work created for 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Design Biennial (2018). The project brought together 27 hand weavers from all over the world together via a social media call. During the project’s development further opportunities have been given such as workshops, presentations and other exhibitions.

The project has been shared on Facebook and in the participants’ own weaving settings with the intention to meet together in an exhibition. In “Google Weaving Stop-time”, all tapestries made are based on the use of the same Google search phrase (Textile+Labour+Turkey). The technique we share is the Scandinavian rya knot also known as the ghiordes knot and the Turkish knot - a knot that has been used for a long time in traditional textiles in both regions (and worldwide). The selection of the image is based on the individual weaver’s choice, but are at the same time also determined by different algorithms Google uses in different countries. In this sense the project exposes the power distortion of images spread via Google algorithms.

The participants in this project are all experienced weavers, but some more so than others when it came to experience in pile-weaving techniques (rya). Many have art educations as a background, but not all. I saw the potential of having participants with different educational backgrounds fruitful and rewarding, as they range from self-taught weavers, hobby-weavers with totally different careers in the day-time, University staff that perhaps had not prioritized their own practice for a long time to full-time artists or designers with international recognition. This ambiguity and variety has been a key element to a successful collaboration. I tried to select participants regarding where they come from, live and work, with exception from those in Turkey which I thought should be slightly overrepresented, to ensure a connection and anchor them to an international discourse of hands-on weaving.

In “Google Weaving Stop-time” different people are brought together to build a new working-setting, different from the more common *solo-weaver-in-studio*. While overseen and organized by myself, it was definitely not a very managed process, the project evolved and was activated among the participants in the group. All participants did not start at the same time, some entered the project much later, some dropped out after finding it too time consuming or for other reasons not for them. In April 2018 I met a weaver in Sweden that I invited to the project – a young man from Afghanistan. He was an asylum seeker in Sweden, and has worked as a rug

weaver in Afghanistan before leaving the country. Because of his asylum status, and therefore for security reasons, he was not part of the Facebook group. Instead we posted images of his weaving process via my Facebook account. This was a different type of voice in the project, which I hope can be recognized in his favor. A second different voice was also heard and seen, by the (un-named) weaver from the rug company "Dhoku". It is noteworthy that those two latter mentioned are male (which was all information I received), in a group of women.

The project's exhibition will travel to France and Belgium (Z33 in Hasselt) in 2019 as part of Z33 ongoing research called "Time School" or "School of Time" (previously displayed at ALCOVA during Milan Design Week)

During the opening days of the biennial (September 2018) I organized a 1-day workshop together with the Swedish Institute and the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul titled "Rya Weaving Workshop: Google Weaving Stop-time". Language was primarily English with some translation to Turkish by a representative from the Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul Suzi Ezhrain. Link to external webpage where the project is presented is to be found on <https://si.se/en/equal-spaces-istanbul/>

A public talk also took place during the opening days in Istanbul between myself, Professor in Design Onkar Kular (HDK, Sweden), and participating weaver in "Google Weaving Stop-time" Lina Dornhof (Germany).

Link to external webpage <https://www.konstnarsnamnden.se/default.aspx?id=22063>

This talk was initiated and supported by IKSV, Iaspis, Swedish Institute, Consulate General of Sweden in Istanbul.

Another connecting event happened in Serbia (fall 2018). Between October 1st and December 1st I held an Artist Residency from Swedish Iaspis at Nova Iskra in Belgrade. During this period I made second rya workshop (November 2-3) in the same format as the one held in Istanbul earlier same year. This 2-day event also included a presentation of my practice and the project "Google Weaving Stop-time". One of the participants in the project, Maja Petrovic, lives in Belgrade and took part in this workshop. Meeting with participants in real, both in Istanbul (during the workshop and public presentation) and in Belgrade, have been very fruitful for my understanding of how the project has been experienced for others.

By the end of 2018 a new opportunity took place; as part of the exhibition "Power/Personal Power" curated by the Gothenburg-based association Omforma. I made a rya tapestry titled "Please Add At Least One Friend" (I was accepted during summer 2018 and wove the piece then), the image is based on a message I received from Facebook while trying to set up the new Facebook Page for the project "Google Weaving Stop-time" in which I would invite the participants to be members and share their processes in images and comments. The messages describes how a closed members group cannot be set up before *Friends* are visible on Facebook. The tapestry "Please Add At Least One Friend" is made in wool on linen warp, with attached mobile chargers and broken electronic wires, and measures 100 cm x 100 cm. I had been an idle Facebook user for many years, but now I started my project by creating the group called Google

Weaving Stop-time. Facebook gave me immediate response: "please add at least one friend to your group".

"Power/Personal Power" is an exhibition about flouting conventions and hierarchies in the design field. The exhibition "Power/Personal Power" ("Makt/Egenmakt") presents examples of designers who defy norms in their practice and forge new paths in the design field – for themselves and others. The exhibition opened on 23 November, 2018 with a half-day seminar. The exhibition will travel to other venues during 2019. It is supported by Omforma, Malmö Form/Design Center and Swedish Postcode Foundation.

Link to external webpage where the project is presented <https://www.omforma.se/emelie-rondahl/>