

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shaker
Museum

**HETTLER.TÜLLMANN CURATES *THE ALCHEMY OF RE.USE* FOR
SHAKER MUSEUM**

Collaboration Celebrates Sustainability, Craftsmanship, and the Spirit of Community

*Exhibition will run from Saturday, September 30, to Sunday, December 17,
at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill in Kinderhook, NY*

CHATHAM, NEW YORK, September 26, 2023 — Shaker Museum, which stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, announced today that its latest exhibition — *The Alchemy of Re.Use* — will debut Saturday, September 30, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, at the Kinderhook Knitting Mill in Kinderhook, NY.

The Alchemy of Re.Use explores the Shaker practice of creating objects both for use and for sale as well as the Shaker tradition of reusing scraps and sharing communal resources. Co-curated by Shaker Museum and hettler.tüllmann, the exhibition places a focus on craftsmanship, sustainable materials, and engaging with international and multicultural collaborators to support local economies. hettler.tüllmann, the Miami- and Berlin-based collaboration between designer Katja Hettler and architect Julia Tüllmann, is part of Shaker Museum's Makers' Circle, an advisory group made up of contemporary artists and designers who are innovating the field of design and collaborating with the museum.

hettler.tüllmann worked with two groups, one based in Miami, Florida and the other in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Helping Hands Crochet Club is an informal club organized by a Miami Dade Library branch. They make sleeping mats out of "plarn," a plastic yarn made from recycled plastic shopping bags, that they then donate to members of Miami's unhoused community. For this project, hettler.tüllmann

commissioned the women to create mats in any color and style they liked. The club also produced a picnic blanket and two ottomans that will be on view.

TAPPCO Organization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, arranges handicraft training for parents of infant cancer patients to help them establish a stable financial income and to cope with the psychological difficulties of their situations. hettler.tüllmann commissioned TAPPCO to create colorful braided mats made from strips of old clothing and textiles, choosing their own colorways.

Objects from Shaker Museum's permanent collection will augment the exhibition. On display will be a number of Shaker textiles that reflect the Shaker ethos of reuse and repurposing.

Jula Tüllmann commented, "Our work as designers reflects an awareness of our role as global citizens with collective responsibility for the wellbeing of our fellow human beings. All the contemporary pieces created for the exhibition have been sourced from reused materials recycled into new objects. We are so pleased to work with Shaker Museum to bring this show to life."

Shaker Museum Executive Director Lacy Schutz commented, "It is an honor to show work by these two wonderful organizations. Their commitment to both craftsmanship and community holds true to the ideals of the Shakers and shows the beauty of upcycled materials. We are thrilled to have hettler.tüllmann as part of Shaker Museum's Makers' Circle. Being able to work with them to bring important work that shares Shaker ideals to the forefront is a part of our vision."

The exhibition will run from Saturday, September 30, to Sunday, December 17. Exhibition hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sundays from 11:00am to 4:00pm. No tickets or advance reservations are required. For more information on the exhibition and on the Makers' Circle, visit shakermuseum.us. For more information on the Kinderhook Knitting Mill (located at 8 Hudson Street in Kinderhook, NY) visit www.kinderhookknittingmill.com.

In addition to this exhibition, Shaker Museum's programming for fall 2023 includes member tours and a forthcoming live performance collaboration. Shaker Museum's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Shaker Museum purchased a 19th-century industrial building in Chatham, NY, and is in the process of renovating and building an expansive addition to the facility designed by Selldorf Architects. The physical building will embody Shaker values of inclusion, innovation, and equality to create a museum that both tells the Shaker story and is responsive to the needs of the community in Chatham,

Columbia County, and the surrounding Hudson Valley. The museum will also retain and maintain the historic Shaker site in Mount Lebanon. The new campus, located at 5 Austerlitz Street, will provide ample space for exhibitions and respond to the need for inclusive community gathering spaces through its exhibitions and robust programming.

About Shaker Museum

With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, NY, which is in development, was designed by Selldorf Architects. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, NY, and has a campus in Old Chatham, NY, which is open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection can be viewed online at shakermuseum.us.

Photos Link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/asml43qencjxtb3pic3bi/h?rlkey=nwrmljl0wk130y1097xs5mr30&dl=0>

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