YAMUNA FORZANI

Yamuna Forzani is a multidisciplinary artist and queer activist whose practice centers around a desire to build her queer utopia that centers and celebrates her community, making them part of and inspiration of her creative outputs. Yamuna's work takes form through textile, she explores the medium in collaboration with other design, artistic and social initiatives - often involving, organising events, dance performances, embedding fashion and costume, public art and versatile installations. The events she hosts merge practices of other creative fields such as theater, music, performance art and social design. These events serve as platforms where Yamuna seamlessly amalgamates her creative endeavors, allowing her to join her to be a queer activist, which becomes central to her creative practice. As a part of the Kiki House of Angels in the Netherlands and an international member of New York's House of Comme Des Garçons she is internationally representing the Netherlands in the ballroom scene. In 2022 she won the Dutch Design Awards for her artistic direction and specifically the annual Utopia Ball x Fashion Show. These events become a shared platform uniting these creative methodologies and paying homage to the queer community while also experimenting with new formats and themes, that merge her textile practice with fashion and social engagement Recurring and consistent in her practice is her use of knitted textiles, although used through various expressions they are intrinsically the core that ties together the multitude of expressions of Yamuna's practice. She develops these knitted textiles in Tilburg Textile Museum using industrial knitting techniques such as 3D knitting or jacquard knitting to make couture garments. It is through her textiles that she knits and connects communities, bodies and creates spaces for these gatherings and common threads to find expression. Her inherent storytelling nature finds manifestation through textiles, serving as tools that bring people together, creating a world—a fantastical interpretation and utopian imaginary that invites others into the embrace of her artistic vision. In the vast landscape of her multidisciplinary artistry, Yamuna Forzani emerges as a creator shaping her universe, employing various tools and languages to articulate her unique narrative—a narrative that transcends the boundaries of conventional artistic expression.

WEBSITES

yamunaforzani.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/yamunaforzani/

EDUCATION

2014 - 2015 fashion Swedish School of Textiles diploma

2012 - 2016 textile and fashion Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2025 Activating Common Ground Osaka World Expo Osaka, Japan Activating Common Ground With Activating Common Ground, the Nieuwe Instituut contributes to the Dutch Pavilion's overarching theme: the 425-year relationship between the Netherlands and Japan and the importance of shared values and interests in tackling global challenges such as climate change, the energy transition, food security and global health. Activating Common Ground is an interdisciplinary programme that will take place over six months in the Dutch Pavilion and elsewhere. The thread running through the programme is the collaboration and exchange between Japanese and Dutch makers and the recognition that culture and identity are not fixed, but emerge from a world full of exchange, interaction, curiosity and dialogue. The programme format was inspired by the Dutch magazine Avenue (1965 – 2003). Avenue was known for its open and experimental approach to literature, fashion, food, design, shopping and photography, all of which it treated equally. A second inspiration was the Dutch pavilion at Expo 1970 (also in Osaka). The daring industrial design by Jaap Bakema and Carel Weeber presented the Netherlands as a total concept in

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2022 worm rotterdam rotterdam, Netherlands The Angel Delight 2.0 Residency surrounds the concepts and ideologies of Yamuna Forzani's artistic practice as well as her ideologies and involvement in the Dutch Ballroom scene. During 22nd, 23rd and 25th October there will be two evenings of workshops that give a deeper understanding and context of the ideologies and concepts of Forzanis work. The climax of this residency will be Yamuna Forazni's fashion presentation on 25th October that will be in the form of a live concert. This show will showcase a select musical talent from the queer scene and showcase Forzani's latest collection. worm.org/production/angel-delight-2-0-x-snackbar/

2022 Milan, Italy One month residency in Milan in preparation for Salone Del Mobile i-d.vice.com/it/article/pkgyb7/froggy-bum-performance-milano-fotografie

2021 worm rotterdam rotterdam, Netherlands The Angel Delight Residency surrounds the concepts and ideologies of Yamuna Forzani's Utopia III Ball . During 13- 16 September there will be a week of performative training camps, a series of workshops that give a deeper understanding and context of the ballroom scene. The

which themes such as society, politics, economy and culture were interwoven through fashion, architecture, film, music and design. nieuweinstituut.nl/en/articles/activating-common-ground
Group

2025 New New Babylon Kunstmuseum den haag, Netherlands Imagining the future means looking beyond the horizon. Where are we now and where do we want to be? With New New Babylon, the Kunstmuseum Den Haag creates room for new perspectives. Are grandiose visions still relevant today? From a place of solidarity and care, makers envision the future in a different light. www.kunstmuseum.nl/en/exhibitions/new-new-babylon
Group

2025 Bridging minds Van Abbe Museum Eindhoven, Netherlands Design builds bridges between different worlds, fields of work and desires. It connects questions and solutions. The design exhibition Bridging Minds invites you to discover the connecting power of design. Positive and optimistic Design makes our daily lives better, but also contributes to tackling major social issues. Climate change, social inequality and emerging technologies: designers work on the challenges of our time with optimism and positive input. 100 pieces of art and design Guest curator Miriam van der Lubbe, strategic designer and Creative Head at Dutch Design Week, brings together some 100 works by designers and artists from the Van Abbemuseum's collection and beyond. From Hella Jongerius, Maarten Baas, Niels Hoebers, Jalila Essaïdi and Formafantasma to Femke Hoppenbrouwer, Marcos Kueh, Simon Dogger and Bas Timmer. 'In choosing the works, I took action perspective as my starting point; designs and artworks that not only reflect but really contribute to something. This makes Bridging Minds an exhibition that shows how design actively helps shape the future.' - Miriam van der Lubbe www.museum.nl/en/van-abbemuseum/exhibition/design-exhibition-bridging-minds
Group

2025 Say Yes WereldMuseum Rotterdam, Netherlands Discover the versatility and significance of wedding fashion in the SAY YES exhibition at the Wereldmuseum Rotterdam. From January 31st to October 26th, 2025, you'll experience an inspiring journey through wedding traditions and modern designs from different cultures. Be amazed by iconic creations, innovative trends, and the deeper stories behind this unique fashion. Wedding attire is so much more than just a dress or suit; it's an expression of identity, tradition, and connection. With SAY YES, Wereldmuseum Rotterdam takes you into the rich world of international bridal fashion. From January 31, 2025, to October 26, 2025, you'll discover how wedding styles from diverse cultures are gaining renewed interest and how traditional elements are being innovatively translated into contemporary design. rotterdam.wereldmuseum.nl/nl/zien-en-doen/tentoonstellingen/say-yes
Group

2025 Soft Spaces: Beyond the Glitter Design Museum Den Bosch, Netherlands Soft Spaces: Beyond the glitter opened at Design Museum Den Bosch on 18 September 2021. The exhibition explores the boundaries between the digital and physical world. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the world of virtual reality and to experience how digital technology can influence our perception of space. The climax of this residency will be Yamuna Forazni's fashion show on 24 September. This show will give an insight into the magical world of ballroom and showcase Forzani's latest collection. worm.org/2021/07/20/angel-delight-residency-yamuna-forzani/

January. The presentation is the result of a unique co-creation process in which groups from the city have teamed up with textile artists to develop a ‘soft space’ together: a space for conversations about themes like mental health, identity and security. For this second round of Soft Spaces, the Drag Up Family worked with the textile artist Yamuna Forzani. The result is an artistic living room in which you will discover the local drag collective’s experiences. And that there is more to drag than glitter: it is also a way of asking thought-provoking questions about identity and social themes.
designmuseum.nl/en/tentoonstelling/soft-spaces-beyond-the-glitter/
Group

2025 Opening of the new museum Villa Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands Yamuna weaves queer meaning into everything she creates. She builds a world where her community leads—not as a subject, but as a co-creator. Her work is textile, fashion, performance, dance, protest, love. Everything shines. Everything moves. Everything belongs. Yamuna doesn't just dream of a queer utopia. Yamuna makes it a reality.
www.museumvilla.com/nu-te-zien/yamuna-forzani
Group

2025 Carte Blanche x Lowlands Lowlands Festival
crtblnch.nl/
Group

2025 Haus of Fibre Textile Museum Tilburg Tilburg, Netherlands Haus of Fiber is the result of a unique co-creation process. We wanted to create an exhibition about the role of textiles in the work of artists from the LGBTQIA+ community, and this story is naturally best told by queer artists themselves. Therefore, after an open call , we invited Nixie van Laere , Célio Braga, Chathuri Nissansala , and Yamuna Forzani to co-create this exhibition. Inspired by the museum's collection and the work of queer artists past and present, we collaboratively created an exhibition in which textiles serve as both a medium and a metaphor for connection, loss, and resistance. Haus of Fiber not only showcases how contemporary artists use textiles in their work but also offers a historical perspective. Textiles have always played a role in the search for identity, in forming communities, and in resisting established (gender, sexual, and intersectional) norms.
textielmuseum.nl/tentoonstellingen/haus-of-fibre
Group

2024 Vrouwen van Amsterdam een ode Amsterdam Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.amsterdammuseum.nl/tentoonstelling/vrouwen-van-amsterdam-een-ode/149663
Group

2024 The Art of Drag Frans Hals Museum Haarlem, Netherlands franshalsmuseum.nl/nl/zien-en-doen/archief/the-art-of-drag
Group

2023 Ted Noten & co Museum JAN amstleveen, Netherlands Museum JAN heeft de tentoonstelling samengesteld op basis van thema's waar Noten mee worstelt: originaliteit, waarde, materiaalkeuze en status. Hij is hierin niet uniek; andere kunstenaars en ontwerpers, of ze nu aan het begin van hun carrière staan of er middenin zitten, ervaren dit ook. Daarom vergezellen zij Noten in de tentoonstelling. Bijdragers

aan de tentoonstelling: Ted Noten & co. – op waarde zijn: Maarten Bel, Merle Bergers, Elsemarijn Bruys, Koos Buster, Das Leben am Haverkamp, Yamuna Forzani, Corrina Goutos, Kalkidan Hoex, Bastienne Kramer, Tirzo Martha, Jelle Mastenbroek, Ted Noten, Joyce Overheul, Lex Pott, Saar Scheerlings, Joana Schneider, Anton Shebetko, Sebastiaan Straatsma, Sanne Terweij, Studio Lernert & Sander, Georgina Treviño, Mart Veldhuis, Sander Wassink. museumjan.nl/tentoonstellingen/ted-noten-co-over-waarde

2023 BlowUp Art City of Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands denhaag.com/nl/blowup
Group

2022 Spiritual Urgency Stedelijk Museum Scheidam Scheidam, Netherlands
stedelijkmuseumschiedam.nl/tentoonstelling/spirituele-urgentie/
Group

COMMISSIONS

2025 750 years amsterdam De Bijenkorf Amsterdam, Netherlands September | Yamuna Forzani & Layla Gijsen In September, fashion designer and queer activist Yamuna Forzani will present an exclusive fashion design specifically for de Bijenkorf. Simultaneously, the unique prints and ceramic furniture by conceptual artist Layla Gijsen will be on display. Layla's work reflects Amsterdam's playfulness and creative energy, effortlessly blending art and design.
www.debijenkorf.nl/evenementen/de-bijenkorf-x-represented-by-agency finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2025 It Takes a Village Textile Museum Tilburg Tilburg, Nederland It Takes a Village is a 3D knitted tapestry that is currently on show at the exhibition Haus of Fibre, it was purchased by the museum for their permanent collection

2023 Bound Frans Hals Museum Haarlem , Nederland This piece was purchased by the museum as part of their permanent collection in 2023, it has since been exhibited in 2024 in their exhibition 'The Art of Drag' and is also currently on show.

2021 Over the Rainbow Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland This piece was bought in 2021, it is a tufted art work on stretched canvas 220x180cm.

2021 Jacket, Jumpsuit, Hat Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Nederland For their exhibition called Global Wardrobe, the Kunstmuseum aquired a knitted jacket, knitted jumpsuit and knitted hat that was also on display.

2020 Tilburg Textile Museum Tilburg, Nederland The Textile Museum acquired a knitted tracksuit set, a knitted covid mask, a printed top and printed skirt for their permanent collection. These pieces were exhibited in a fashion exhibition at the museum

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Netherlands

2024 Research / Starter Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Netherlands

2024 AFK Stipend AFK, Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands

2022 Fashion design award Dutch Design Awards eindhoven, Netherlands
https://www.dutchdesignawards.nl/gallery/the-utopia-ball-x-fashion-show/

2021 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie

REPRESENTATION

-- Now Gallery Lima, Peru
https://www.instagram.com/thisisnow.art/

-- Represented By Agency Amsterdam, Netherlands
https://representedby.agency/

Rotterdam, Netherlands

2020 Milan Design Week grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam / Milan With this grant I was able to not only showcase my work during Design Week Milan but also do a on month residency in Milan and collaborate with the scene there.

2019 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie rotterdam, Netherlands

2017 Talent Development Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie rotterdam, Netherlands This grant supported me for one year in 2017-2018. With this grant I visited Japan and the US for 3 months, I then came back and made a new collection and organised the first Utopia Ball x Fashion Show in The Hague.

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2025 - 2025 Teaching at the Design Lab at Rietveld

2024 - 2025 Co-curator at the Tilburg Textile Museum for the exhibition Haus of Fibre

2020 - 2020 Teaching at the Fine Arts Department at KABK



Magnolia, 2025
Jaquard Knitting, 80x120cm



Dreams, 2025
Jaquard knit, 170x250cm



It Takes a Village , 2023
3d knitting, 180x180cm



Mars in Scorpio , 2023
jaquard knit and embroidery , 180x180cm



Blow Up Den Haag, 2023
inflatable printed, 8m diameter



Spiritual Urgency , 2022



Bound, 2022
3D knit, 180x190cm



Froggy Bum Milano, 2022



Utopia Ball After Movie, 2021



Angel Delight , 2021