

weave up !



Residencies logbooks



Co-funded by
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IDEIAS
EMERGENTES

weave up !

Linen residency logbook



*ferme Pillet
Amfreville-les-champs.
juillet 2023*



IDEIAS
EMERGENTES

Sowing - Growth - uprooting - retting
 Ensemencement - croissance - arrachage - rouissage

linen seed is planted at the beginning of March or later depending of the meteorology



linen bast remove by hand during the harvest uproot when 2/3 of the leaves have fallen (around a hundred days after sowing), usually in mid-july harvesting can be done

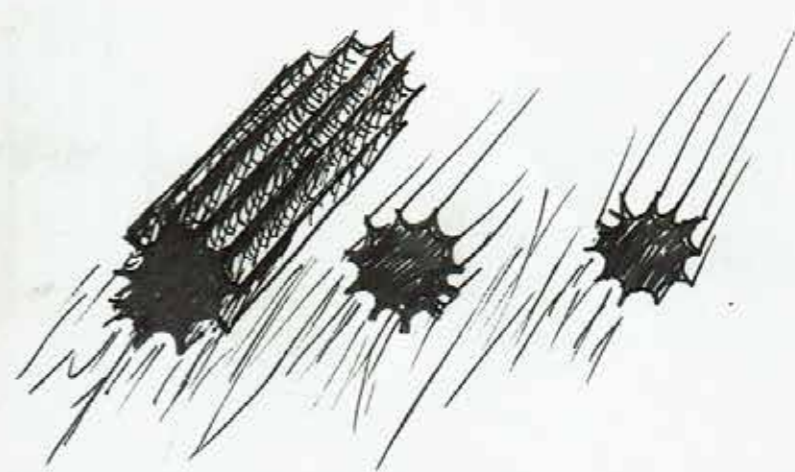


linen stem straw after underground retting. Once the linen has been removed, it is placed on the ground. The retting process for linen lasts between 2 weeks and two months, depending on the weather conditions. To ensure unvarying result the linen is turned over several times.



Terre de lin

Scutching
 Teillage



scutched flax fiber without retting

Terre de lin



scutched flax fiber after an under-retting yellow
 mèche jaune

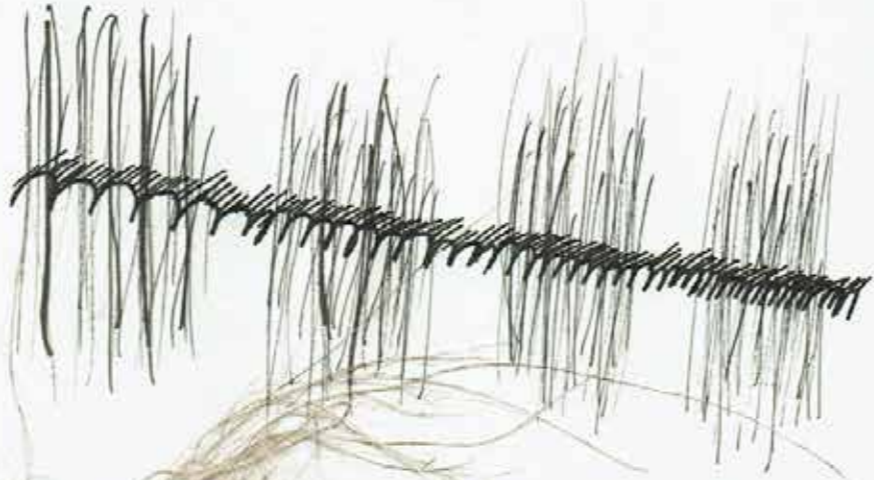


scutched flax fiber after a good retting grey
 blond
 "lin bleu"



scutched flax fiber after an over-retting black
 noir

Combing
Peignage



Terre de Lin



Combed flax
lin peigné

two
staples



shives
anas

Alliance for European
Flax & Hemp



Combed flax
yellowish

Stretching & spinning
Etirage & filage

la french filature



flax yarn

Safilin



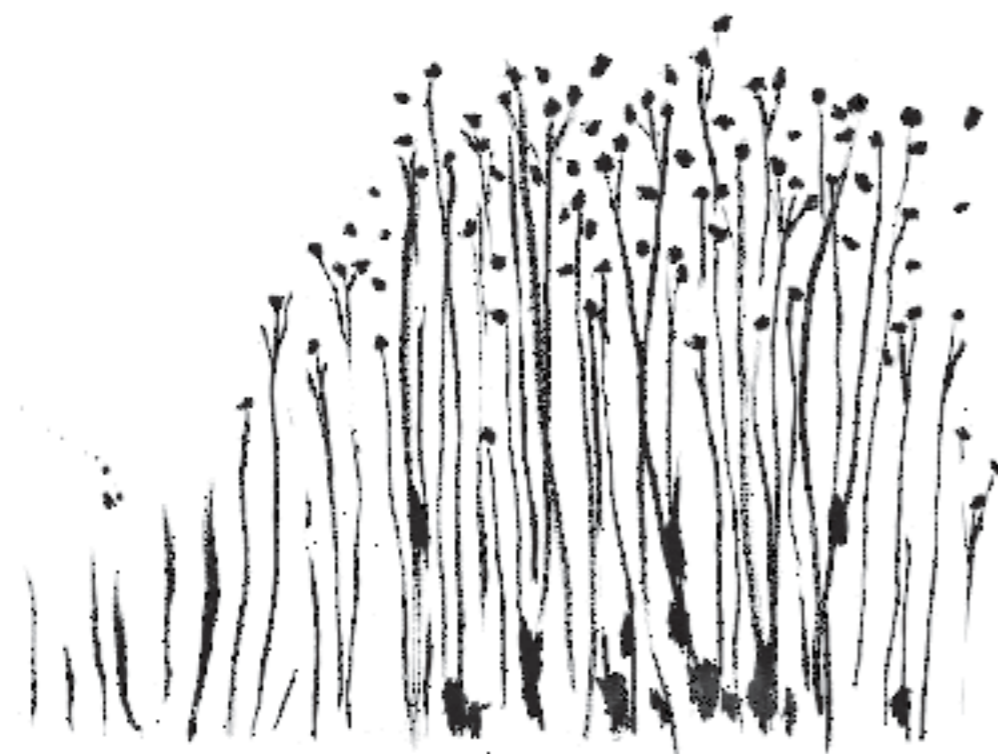
flax yarn
clay spinning

la french filature



flax thread
wet spinning - whiten

PREMIERE VISION. MEETING WITH EUROPEAN FLAX AND HEMP ASSOCIATION



- European flax: grown 100% in Europe.
1. Growing (in rotation with other crops)
 2. Retting on the field
(no retting in water and no chemicals)
 3. Collecting into bundles
(no need for heat when drying, they just rest)

other processes might be done in other countries; china.

Safilin: all processes done in Europe
France, Poland. from growing → yarn. (fabric.)

DEHONDT COMPOSITES

I asked if I could grow my flax in Estonia and co-operate with a factory to get fiber or yarn.

Processing flax in small quantities:

- Polish Agricultural Academy
- Project(s) in Lithuania.

Seeds: Van den Bilt ♡

Recommended factory where to buy fiber flax seeds.



DEHONDT Composites

1 of 4 companies that produces flax machines. (Agricultural)

Composites: flax oil + vegetables, potatoes, corn etc.

↓
EATABLE

Fiber material: woven ^{natural} linen + resin + castor oil

5th generation flax growing and processing
developing technologies: first important to know how to work with the material by hand. Then think how to adjust machines to work with the material.

The owner is

Fertilizers and chemicals against weeds
are used for growing linen. 90%.
10% is grown organically.



FRENCH FILATURE

FRENCH FILATURE

"IT'S ALIVE FIBER"

The longer it is in the factory, the better quality yarn.

There are no possibilities for testing the quality of the fibers (in a lab). You just have to touch, feel the material. (Fingers through the fibers, breaking with hands to see if they break.)

colonization : for short fibers.
Only mechanical, not chemical
Short colonized fibers
to dry spinning.
Wet spinning - long fibers

long fibers ~ 50 cm long

Mixing different ~~quantities~~ fibers together.
from 8 suppliers → 1.

TISSAGE DURONCHAY

TISSAGE DURONCHAY

The warp threads are treated with corn starch so that they will not break during weaving.



TERRE DE LIN

Terre de Lin

seeds

120 kg (semet) / ha

After picking the flax plants they are de-seeded. The seeds are used in the following year.

Flax straws.

Scutching - linavarde moudemike

shives - lialalm

Hackling - kammimine enne ketrust.

Sliver of hackled flax → goes to spinning

The cooperative owns the machines and the farmers use the machines as they need them. **SHARED**

Shortage of fiber. The price of fiber is too high. 3-4 high already.
Shortage of fiber because of climate change.

2021 - too much rain, the plants get down.
2022 - better but still too little fiber
2023 - may too dry.

The shives are quite base from the fiber. **NEED TO RET MORE AT HOME.**

In China, Asia, they don't grow flax anymore, because they need to grow food. They also have to do water retting which is artificial retting. Hot water tubs have to change water often → expensive.

Transparent production line - from farmer to spinning mill.

After retting - the strands rest 3-4 months
It is good that the moisture level rises.

5-8% moisture - normal

- 15% moisture - can be but not more.

yellow fibers - under retting

light grey - good

~~over~~ dark grey - over retting.

Retting - has to

// I don't need to weave to have fabric.

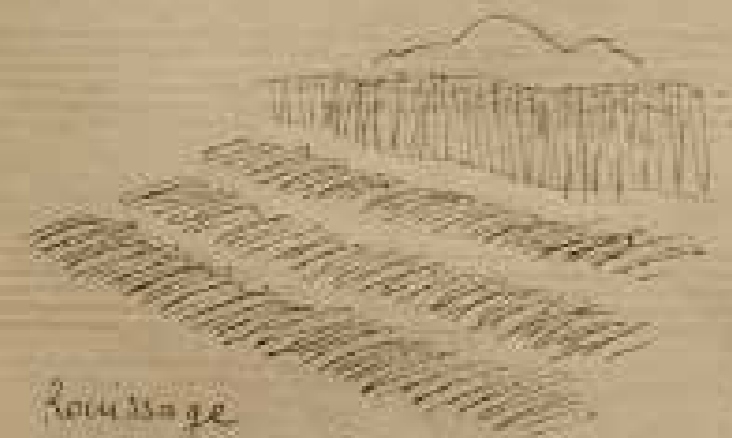
I need to weave because I need fabric that cannot be bought.

It has to complement the designs I make.

Linum catharticum



linen harvested
on the field



louchage
du lin au sol



An old man
explaining the harvest

"L'art de travailler du lin
c'est que l'on doit toujours
garder la plante et l'ensemble
des tiges sans un parallèle parfait
pour aller au louchage on ne doit
pas chiffonner"

So it is important to
keep the stems parallel
during all the process

The first day of the residency
in the French countryside

Mari-Trin showed me how to
separate the cellulose part of
a plant from the fibre.

I had never really tried that
so it was amazing for me to
see that you can just pick
some nettle from the road
side and get fiber out of it.



The first evening we also went
looking for the linen fields.
Like a miracle gazing upon
us there they were - the
blue flax flowers.

In Latvian culture we have so
many folk songs about blooming
flax fields. Unfortunately,
this sight is not visible
anymore in our country as
growing flax has ceased.

« I harnessed my horse into
a plough
While stroking his back
Let my smooth flax grow
Let the fiber shine »

Latvian folk song

Terre de Lin

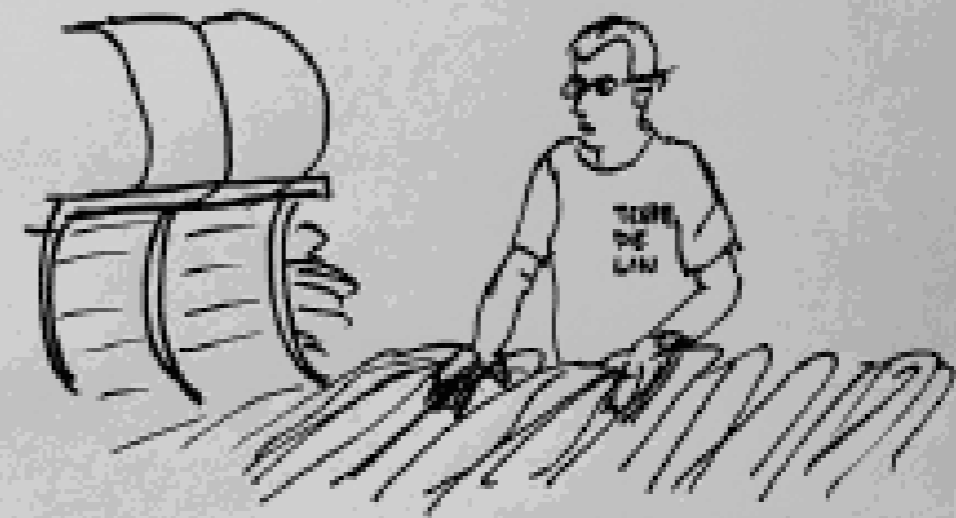
- 700 farmers owning the company. 6 mills
- 1940
- Growing 70 000 ha per year
- 8000 tons of flax seeds
- Shortage of flax fiber
- Decrease of production because of climate change. Too much rain.
- Overly retted reduces the strength of the fiber.
- Under-retted makes it very difficult to split the fiber.
- The top of the fiber is finer, the roots are rougher.

It was absolutely fascinating to see all steps of flax production. Every step involves so much work. So many people involved.

We should bring back the respect and honour to our fabrics and their producers.

Fast fashion industry has destroyed the order in the world.

Devaluing time and effort of producers, manual work and designers.



The natural materials
continue living their
life also after being
transformed into "products".

They continue changing
their shape and colour,
their characteristics.

They continue living
on us, together with us.



One of the biggest inspirations
of this residency was to meet
all of the participants.

It was just magical to encounter
people who are passionate
about fiber and textiles
as much as you are and
probably even more.

The women, the mothers,
the designers and artists
opened their hearts and
shared their love for natural
fiber. I feel very lucky and
honoured to have met these
amazing personalities.





Period of
harvest
July - August

*Linum
usitatissimum*

Size of
the fibres
2-30µm

Seeds



wood
called
Anas
fibres



fibres after
spinning

