

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF YARNS AND FIBRES
FOR WOVEN AND KNITTED FABRICS
FOR APPAREL, FURNISHING AND TECHNICAL TEXTILES

The “Footprints” of excellence of the 39th edition of FILO

The 39th edition of FILO, the international fair for yarns and fibers, opened today at the Le Stelline Congress Center in Milan.

“Footprints” is the theme running through the entire 39th edition of the event. This theme, which more than others, gives value to both the course and choice made by the entrepreneurs of producing yarns of excellence, just like those on exhibit at the stands at FILO including those in the Trend Area, created as usual by Gianni Bologna. The theme also reflects the value of a complete cycle, which ranges from materials of very high quality to refined and elegant garments, in the belief that the “footprints” that each of us leaves will stimulate the work of those that follow in this long course characterized during every step by a basic contribution of creativity and innovation.

A very pleasant surprise for the participants at the inauguration of the 39th edition of Filo.

The President of Confindustria Giorgio Squinzi has sent a video-message, since he is unable to participate in person due to institutional commitments. In his message Squinzi has reiterated the basic role of small and middle sized companies with their vitality and ability to innovate in the Italian industrial system. It is this “footprint” that has always distinguished products made in Italy and at FILO they have found their showcase which is among the most prestigious in the world.

After the message from Giorgio Squinzi, it is **Marilena Bolli**, President of Unione Industriale Biellese, who initiates the discussion offering an interpretation which “reads” the footprints as the legacy of the industrial know-how built up through the years which passes from one generation to the next through training. “The strength of the Biella district is still the vocation of the high end of the market,” affirmed Marilena Bolli, “a priority which continues to be upheld thanks to the enormous commitment of our companies in product and processing innovation. A concrete example is represented by FILO, which has always distinguished itself as being the showcase for the proposals of very high quality yarns and fibres. The strength of our industry lies in the quest for excellence, a heritage made of passion and creativity which must be transmitted to the coming generations. Today the future is built by investing in the education of the young in the hope that with their talent they will grow and contribute to the development of the country. Creating a complete cycle starting from education has become a priority. An excellent example is given by the creation of a master in *Management and Textile Engineering*, a course of higher education offered by Città Studi and Liuc of Biella.” The course is intended for engineering graduates with the aim of training professionals with a complete profile of technical and managerial knowledge for roles in demand in the textile/clothing/fashion sector. A special characteristic of the master is its international dimension, since the master is held entirely in English it is a degree recognized both in Italy and abroad.

Pier Francesco Corcione, director of Unione Industriale Biellese, echoed the words of the president. He spoke of the concepts of manufacturing, high quality products and a complete textile cycle as the “footprints” uniting the present with the future. “The key to the future in the area still remains manufacturing,” stated Corcione. Despite the uncertainty that characterizes any forecast, I am convinced that growth must go to companies that do not represent an “old” sector, but those that are still an engine for the economy, the main generator of jobs and well-being.

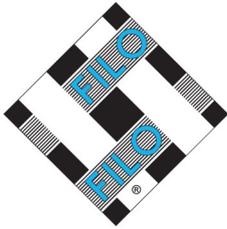
Being able to continue working in the high end segment in particular is what gives strength to the wool district of Biella.

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It is not by chance that from the 12th to the 14th of June, Biella will host the 82nd IWTO World Congress which will be based on the “*Excellence in manufacturing – Heritage for the future*”. Defending the cycle of the textile sector which is still intact in the district and exploiting manufacturing as the economic engine is an absolute priority in trying to bring about economic recovery.”

As proof that “footprints” offer a solid base for products made in Italy, which are so appreciated all over the world, we have the words of two protagonists who work on opposite ends of the cycle: the textile entrepreneur Roberto Rimoldi and the designer Massimo Crivelli .

Roberto Rimoldi, an entrepreneur from Biella, described his experience in the project *Italian Yarn Creativity and Excellence*, as an opportunity when eighteen Italian spinners were presented as a group of buyers in the Far East during Spinexpo in Shanghai. “Our companies are characterized by a smaller dimension in respect to international competitors, which is a factor that underscores the high amount of crafting found in our products. This gives added value making us appear as the last “Goldsmith” craftsmen, having a culture for good taste as well as for quality and Italian style. The project “Italian Yarn Creativity and Excellence” has permitted companies like mine to be present on the Far East market with a strength it could not have had by itself, thus obtaining good results and stimulating interest. It is the concrete demonstration that we must create a system and with these synergies go out and strongly attack foreign markets which eventually will lead to renewed optimism.”

On the other hand **Massimo Crivelli**, underscores how all his collections and all his garments are the fulfillment of the concept of feminine which was built up right from his childhood from distant memories. “It is a footprint, a theme that recurs in my collections and is inspired greatly by architecture, industrial design and the work of great masters like Richard Neutra or Richard Meier or Giò Ponti, consequently my creations are the interpretations of a woman who lives in that atmosphere. Every garment comes from the meticulous research of materials and lines so that the task of creating a collection is transformed into an atmosphere of a message where I tell my story which changes every season. My showroom is like a stage which is always ready to change because the setting must also renovate together with the stories, in this case the garments.” Crivelli continues, “If the real significance of luxury is dressing emotions, it is evident that our work of creativity at every phase of the cycle, must be oriented towards the quest for maximum quality of both materials and the finished garment itself. It is often said that fashion should “become a system”, a concept which in my opinion means having great respect for one’s product and therefore it should always be made in the best possible way, opening the way for research and innovation without hesitation. These are the premises which will enable products made in Italy to continue to affirm themselves with strength throughout the world.”

The circle closes with the words of **topylabrys** (alias Ornella Piluso) – sculptor, researcher and designer with a passion for the world of fashion. “A thread is a magnificent source of inspiration for an artist because it ranges from something inconsistent like a “thread of smoke” to the strong image of “barbed wire”. Hence, its unwinding symbolizes the way of life, as we recognize in this ancient yet very modern material a “footprint” of vital importance for mankind: the thread that has always loved to keep the world united.”

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