

Applied Colours

Anna Perugini

Wiener Farben (Vienna Colours) are more than a purely textile application. They open up new perspectives on material, place, and design. As part of the Biofabrique Vienna Challenge “Applied Colours”, designer Anna Perugini explores how dyes derived from organic residual resources can be applied and experienced beyond the realm of textiles.

Drawing on her interest in materials and the cultural meanings they embody, Perugini develops an installation that understands the Wiener Farben as part of a “Wiener Gesamtkunstwerk”. The colour palette is not only treated as a surface treatment or decorative element, but as an expression of regional resources, local production processes, and urban identity. The work demonstrates how previously unused resources can give rise to a site-specific palette that offers a new way of reading and understanding Vienna.

At the same time, Perugini creates a connection to her home region of Marche in central Italy. Local cultural practices and craft traditions enter into dialogue with the Wiener Farben, illustrating that bioregional design, a design approach based on local resources, always emerges from the specific characteristics of a place.

For the realisation of the project, Perugini collaborates with partners who combine tradition, craftsmanship, and a spirit of innovation. Thonet provided discarded bentwood elements from its production for colour testing, while the Viennese manufactory Supersense contributed its expertise in historical and analogue printing techniques. From the Marche region, Intreccio Vivo brought local weaving knowledge and material practices into the process, while Spring Color provided natural colour bases rooted in the rediscovery of historic techniques and the use of raw materials.

The exhibition, curated by Perugini, brings together designers and practitioners who share a similar sensibility towards bioregional practices. It features works by Fabio Spink, an artist, designer, and furniture maker working with discarded wood from Vienna; Kristi Komel, a textile designer; and Trajna, a design collective based in Ljubljana, Slovenia, whose work explores the use of invasive plant species in urban environments.

In this way, the installation positions bioregional design as a European practice, connecting different regions through materials, resources, communities, and cultures of making. It demonstrates how design can make regional identities visible while creating meaningful connections across geographical boundaries.