An art project *Social Fabric of Migration* by Varvara Zhemchuzhnikova, a textile artist and designer who graduated from the Fashion and Collection Design programme at Aalto University in 2017, was exhibited in the Harald Herlin Learning Centre on May 5 – May 26, 2017.

The material process of crafting textiles has a long history as a way for people to gather, spend time together, and share stories. In the collaborative project *Social Fabric of Migration*, textiles are used to begin an open process of sharing thoughts and experiences.

The conversation evolves across three canvases. The first shines a light on the artist’s experiences of moving from Russia through Finland to Canada, and parallel stories from her friends and family. For the second canvas, participants from around the globe have contributed yarns and narratives. The final and most recent canvas, focused on the connection between new migrants and their adopted home of Finland.

The topic of migration is regularly used to further political agendas in transforming societies: it is either colored with negative undertones to mobilise resentment and promote structures of exclusion, or it is used to create empty surfaces of colourful diversity. But these canvases defy expectations: going through the challenges of changing contexts results neither in greyness nor in diverse happiness; it comes as complicated and full of stories as life itself. The project offers a space for shared experiences, difficulties, emotions and challenges within the stories of oneself and of others.

Curator: Ksenia Kaverina

The event was part of Aalto Festival 2017.  
Website: [http://textile.varvara.ca/](http://textile.varvara.ca/)