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Felt Designs Produced in Turkey Today *Türkiye’de Günümüzde Üretilen Keçe Tasarımları*

Abstract: Felt is a textile material obtained from the mixing of wool fibers, which are animal fibers, with heat, soap and water. There are written sources that state that the Turks, who first settled in the Huns period, used felt. According to these sources, felt was used not only outside the tents but also in the upholstery inside the tent. It has changed in the design of the products obtained with the art of felt, which has survived until today. Previously, products such as floor mats, tent covers, shutters, aba and coins were produced, but different design products were produced over time. These new designs include portraits, scarves, rugs, paintings and different clothing samples. Design is the process of making the product one wants to produce from abstract to concrete. The person is mostly original when designing and thinking about the technique and material of the work he wants to produce. Designs can be aesthetic and relative, as well as change over time. Design is variable according to developing technology, time and person. It is unique because it is obtained after the imagination of the creator. With the research done, different felt designs obtained today are discussed and information is given about the techniques used in obtaining the designs.

Keywords: Felt, Design, Art

Öz: Keçe, hayvansal lif olan yün liflerinin ısı, sabun ve su ile birbiri arasına girmesi ile elde edilen tekstil malzemesi olup ilk olarak hangi dönemde üretildiğini gösteren herhangi bir yazılı veya görsel kaynak bulunmamaktadır. İlk olarak Hunlar döneminde yerleşik hayata geçen Türklerin keçeyi kullandıklarını ifade eden yazılı kaynaklar mevcuttur. Bu kaynaklara göre keçe sadece çadırların dışında değil çadır içinde döşemelerde kullanılmıştır. Günümüze kadar varlığını sürdüren keçe sanatı ile elde edilen ürünlerin tasarımında değişime uğramıştır. Öncesinde yer yaygısı, çadır örtüsü, kepenek, aba, arakiye ve sikke gibi ürünler elde edilirken zamanla farklı tasarım ürünleri üretilmiştir. Bu yeni tasarımlar arasında portre, fular, kilim, tablo ve farklı kıyafet örnekleri yer almaktadır. Tasarım kişinin üretmek istediği ürünü soyuttan somut hale getirme işlemidir. Kişi üretmek istediği çalışmayı tekniğini, malzemesini düşünüp tasarlarlarken çoğunlukla özgündür. Tasarımlar estetik ve göreceli olabildiği gibi zamanla değişim gösterebilirler. Tasarım gelişen teknoloji, zaman ve kişiye göre değişkendir. Üreten kişinin hayal gücü sonrasında elde edildiği için tektir. Yapılan araştırma ile günümüzde elde edilen farklı keçe tasarımları ele alınarak tasarımların elde edilmesinde kullanılan teknikler hakkında bilgi verilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Keçe, Tasarım, Sanat

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Introduction

Felt has always existed in human life and is one of our important handicrafts that continues to exist today. Among the first examples is the saddle felt cover from the Pazirik kurgan. There are historical documents showing that the first products of felt were produced with the recoil felt technique and the felt fabrics cut in the production of some decorations were obtained by the applique technique, and these documents can be accessed.

“Keregü” in ancient times; these structures, which were called "bargah" in the early Ottoman period, can be found in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan today. The yurt covered with black felt is called kara-üy, and the yurt covered with white felt is called ak-üy (Ergenekon, 1999: 4).

It is a fact that the civilizations that lived in these lands before the Turks came to Anatolia produced felt, but the use of felt increased with the Turks, and a felt production center was established in the regions where animal husbandry is intense (Küçük Kurt and Oyman, 2018: 29).

A group of textile works decorated by affixing fine and colorful leathers on felt and Pre-Turkish clan marks on saddles and horse ears completely reflect the original Hun style (Aslanapa, 1972: 5).

In Central Asian Turkish art, carpets and mats made of wool have an important feature. The first Turkish community that appeared on the stage of history in the 6th century BC, the Huns, used to furnish their tents, and the Kyrgyz boz-üys (nomadic houses) on their tops and floors with felt (Sultanbekova, 2015).

When the history of felting is examined, while products such as tents, floor mats for use in tents and aba worn by shepherds are produced with the traditional felt techniques, nowadays mostly decorative ornaments as well as souvenirs are produced with the traditional felting techniques such as needle felting technique (Kılıç Karatay, 2019: 168).

There are different techniques used in obtaining felt. These are traditional felt, wet felt and dry felt techniques. Traditional felt is dependent on human power and is mostly used to obtain large products. In the past, it used to take a few days to buy products in the traditional felt technique, which was produced by more than one person. However, thanks to the developing technology today, the need for manpower has been eliminated and the product production time has been shortened.

The samples obtained with the felt technique are generally aba, shutters, floor mats, the outer cover of the tent and the hats worn by the people, and the traditional felt technique was generally used. However, today, there has been a change in the designs of felt products. Various felt techniques are used together in new designs. Among the new designs, besides the products produced as designs suitable for today, there are also universe studies and gift products as a design theme. In the design of the products obtained, there is a change depending not only on the developing technology but also on the originality of the person who produces it.

Today's Felt Design Examples

- Rug Samples Produced with Felt



Photograph. Felt Rug Example,
(Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Rug
Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Rug Example,
(Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Rug Example,
(Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Rug Example,
(Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Rug Example,
(Kılıç Karatay, 2021)

• Clothing Samples Produced with Felt



Photograph. Felt Dress Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Dress Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Dress Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Jacket, Hat and Sandal Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Poncho Example, (Sevinç, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Tunic Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Scarf Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Scarf Example, (Küçük Kurt, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Scarf Example, (Küçük Kurt, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Scarf Example, (Küçük Kurt, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Vest Example, (Sevinç, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Skirt Example, (Sevinç, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Hat Example, (Küçük Kurt, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Hat Example, (Sevinç, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Scarf and Hat Example, (Altınkaya, 2021)

• Examples of Tables Produced with Felt



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



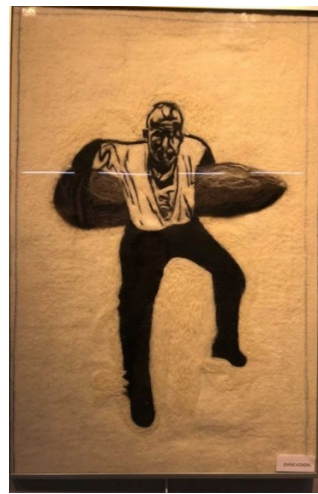
Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Yalçinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)

- **Portrait Examples Produced with Felt**



Photograph. Felt Portrait Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Portrait Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Portrait Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Portrait Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)



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Photograph. Felt Portrait Example, (Kılıç Karatay, 2021)

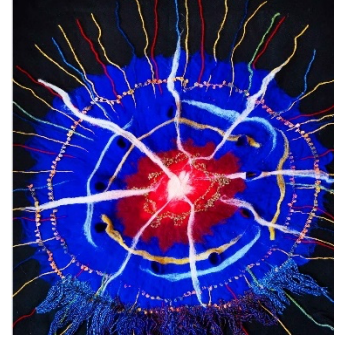
• Universe Themed Design Examples Produced with Felt



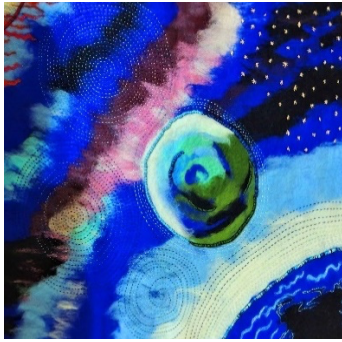
Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)



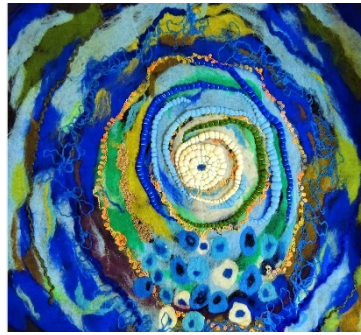
Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Universe Example, (Oyman, 2021)

- Different Felt Design Examples Obtained with Felt



Photograph. 'Praying person' obtained (Altinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Bag Example, (Altinkaya, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Keychains with Felt, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Boots Made with Felt Example, (Kondal, 2021)



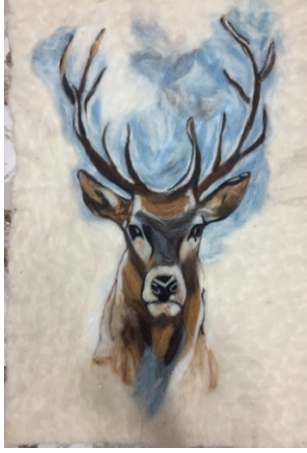
Photograph. Felt Shoes Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Gift Soap Examples, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Gift Soap Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)



Photograph. Felt Table Example, (Kondal, 2021)

Conclusion

Felt, one of the branches of our Traditional handicrafts, is one of our most popular arts today. It is obtained as a result of felting wool fibers by fusing with soap, water and heat. The products produced with felt vary according to the time they are produced and the need. In the old days, necessities such as tent covers, aba or shepherd's shutters were produced, but today, products obtained by producing designs with more artistic dimensions and imagination are seen. Among these products, different and modern designs such as rug patterns, scarves, paintings, dresses and hats can be seen. In addition, different new designs are produced as gift products.

In order to transfer our Turkish handicrafts, which are accepted as our cultural values, from generation to generation, there are changes in our branches of art over time. These changes are sometimes material, sometimes technical and sometimes design. Although the products obtained with the felt art were mostly produced with the traditional felting technique, it is seen that the wet and dry felt techniques are used together in new designs over time. There has also been a change in the shape of the products produced and the purpose of use.

When today's designs are evaluated, it is seen that felt products have changed in design over time. Among the reasons for this are supply-demand, developing technology, adaptation to fashion and the imagination of the producing artist.

When the designs produced today are examined, it is seen that the art of felt, which is one of our Turkish handicrafts, is kept alive, the products produced are appreciated and the interest in the art of felt increases day by day. New designs show differences every passing day, which increases the importance of felt art.

References

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Visual References

- Photograph.** (Semra Kılıç Karatay, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Yalçınkaya, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Naile Rengin Oyman, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Gencer Kondal, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Emine Kondal, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Betül Sevinç, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Ülkü Küçük Kurt, 2021).
- Photograph.** (Gülenay Altınkaya, 2021).