

## YAMUNA FORZANI

Yamuna Forzani is a multidisciplinary artist and queer activist whose practice centers around a desire to build her queer utopia that centers and celebrates her community, making them part of and inspiration of her creative outputs. Yamuna's work takes form through textile, she explores the medium in collaboration with other design, artistic and social initiatives - often involving, organising events, dance performances, embedding fashion and costume, public art and versatile installations. The events she hosts merge practices of other creative fields such as theater, music, performance art and social design. These events serve as platforms where Yamuna seamlessly amalgamates her creative endeavors, allowing her to join her to be a queer activist, which becomes central to her creative practice. As a part of the Kiki House of Angels in the Netherlands and an international member of New York's House of Comme Des Garçons she is internationally representing the Netherlands in the ballroom scene. In 2022 she won the Dutch Design Awards for her artistic direction and specifically the annual Utopia Ball x Fashion Show. These events become a shared platform uniting these creative methodologies and paying homage to the queer community while also experimenting with new formats and themes, that merge her textile practice with fashion and social engagement Recurring and consistent in her practice is her use of knitted textiles, although used through various expressions they are intrinsically the core that ties together the multitude of expressions of Yamuna's practice. She develops these knitted textiles in Tilburg Textile Museum using industrial knitting techniques such as 3D knitting or jacquard knitting to make couture garments. It is through her textiles that she knits and connects communities, bodies and creates spaces for these gatherings and common threads to find expression. Her inherent storytelling nature finds manifestation through textiles, serving as tools that bring people together, creating a world—a fantastical interpretation and utopian imaginary that invites others into the embrace of her artistic vision. In the vast landscape of her multidisciplinary artistry, Yamuna Forzani emerges as a creator shaping her universe, employing various tools and languages to articulate her unique narrative—a narrative that transcends the boundaries of conventional artistic expression.

### WEBSITES

[yamunaforzani.org](http://yamunaforzani.org)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/yamunaforzani/](http://www.instagram.com/yamunaforzani/)

### OPLEIDINGEN

2014 - fashion Swedish School of Textiles Diploma  
2015 behaald

2012 - textile and fashion Den Haag, Koninklijke  
2016 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten Diploma  
behaald

### TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2025 Activating Common Ground Osaka

### INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCIES

World Expo Osaka, Japan Activating Common Ground With Activating Common Ground, the Nieuwe Instituut contributes to the Dutch Pavilion's overarching theme: the 425-year relationship between the Netherlands and Japan and the importance of shared values and interests in tackling global challenges such as climate change, the energy transition, food security and global health. Activating Common Ground is an interdisciplinary programme that will take place over six months in the Dutch Pavilion and elsewhere. The thread running through the programme is the collaboration and exchange between Japanese and Dutch makers and the recognition that culture and identity are not fixed, but emerge from a world full of exchange, interaction, curiosity and dialogue. The programme format was inspired by the Dutch magazine Avenue (1965 – 2003). Avenue was known for its open and experimental approach to literature, fashion, food, design, shopping and photography, all of which it treated equally. A second inspiration was the Dutch pavilion at Expo 1970 (also in Osaka). The daring industrial design by Jaap Bakema and Carel Weeber presented the Netherlands as a total concept in which themes such as society, politics, economy and culture were interwoven through fashion, architecture, film, music and design.

[nieuweinstituut.nl/en/articles/activating-common-ground](http://nieuweinstituut.nl/en/articles/activating-common-ground)

Groep

2022 worm rotterdam rotterdam, Nederland The Angel Delight 2.0 Residency surrounds the concepts and ideologies of Yamuna Forzani's artistic practice as well as her ideologies and involvement in the Dutch Ballroom scene. During 22nd, 23rd and 25th October there will be two evenings of workshops that give a deeper understanding and context of the ideologies and concepts of Forzani's work. The climax of this residency will be Yamuna Forzani's fashion presentation on 25th October that will be in the form of a live concert. This show will showcase a select musical talent from the queer scene and showcase Forzani's latest collection.

[worm.org/production/angel-delight-2-0-x-snackbar/](http://worm.org/production/angel-delight-2-0-x-snackbar/)

2022 Milan, Italië One month residency in Milan in preparation for Salone Del Mobile [d.vice.com/it/article/pkgyb7/froggy-bum-performance-milano-fotografie](http://d.vice.com/it/article/pkgyb7/froggy-bum-performance-milano-fotografie)

2021 worm rotterdam rotterdam, Nederland The Angel Delight Residency surrounds the concepts and ideologies of Yamuna Forzani's Utopia III Ball . During 13- 16 September there will be a week of performative training camps, a series of workshops that give a deeper understanding and context of the ballroom scene. The climax of this residency will be Yamuna Forzani's fashion show on 24 September. This show will give an insight into the magical world of ballroom and showcase Forzani's latest collection.

[worm.org/2021/07/20/angel-delight-residency-yamuna-forzani/](http://worm.org/2021/07/20/angel-delight-residency-yamuna-forzani/)

2025 New New Babylon Kunstmuseum den haag, Nederland Imagining the future means looking beyond the horizon. Where are we now and where do we want to be? With New New Babylon, the Kunstmuseum Den Haag creates room for new perspectives. Are grandiose visions still relevant today? From a place of solidarity and care, makers envision the future in a different light.

[www.kunstmuseum.nl/en/exhibitions/new-new-babylon](http://www.kunstmuseum.nl/en/exhibitions/new-new-babylon)

Groep

2025 Bridging minds Van Abbe Museum

Eindhoven, Nederland Design builds

bridges between different worlds, fields of work and desires. It connects questions and solutions. The design exhibition Bridging Minds invites you to discover the connecting power of design. Positive and optimistic Design makes our daily lives better, but also contributes to tackling major social issues. Climate change, social inequality and emerging technologies: designers work on the challenges of our time with optimism and positive input.

100 pieces of art and design Guest curator Miriam van der Lubbe, strategic designer and Creative Head at Dutch Design Week, brings together some 100 works by designers and artists from the Van Abbemuseum's collection and beyond. From Hella Jongerius, Maarten Baas, Niels Hoebers, Jalila Essaïdi and Formafantasma to Femke Hoppenbrouwer, Marcos Kueh, Simon Dogger and Bas Timmer. 'In choosing the works, I took action perspective as my starting point; designs and artworks that not only reflect but really contribute to something. This makes Bridging Minds an exhibition that shows how design actively helps shape the future.' - Miriam van der Lubbe

[www.museum.nl/en/van-abbemuseum/exhibition/design-exhibition-bridging-minds](http://www.museum.nl/en/van-abbemuseum/exhibition/design-exhibition-bridging-minds)

Groep

2025

Opening of the new museum Villa Museum Amsterdam, Nederland Yamuna weaves queer meaning into everything she creates. She builds a world where her community leads—not as a subject, but as a co-creator. Her work is textile, fashion, performance, dance, protest, love. Everything shines. Everything moves. Everything belongs. Yamuna doesn't just dream of a queer utopia. Yamuna makes it a reality.

[www.museumvilla.com/nu-te-zien/yamuna-forzani](http://www.museumvilla.com/nu-te-zien/yamuna-forzani)

Groep

2025

Haus of Fibre Textile Museum Tilburg Tilburg, Nederland Haus of Fiber is the result of a unique co-creation process. We wanted to create an exhibition about the role of textiles in the work of

artists from the LGBTQIA+ community, and this story is naturally best told by queer artists themselves. Therefore, after an open call, we invited Nixie van Laere, Célio Braga, Chathuri Nissansala, and Yamuna Forzani to co-create this exhibition. Inspired by the museum's collection and the work of queer artists past and present, we collaboratively created an exhibition in which textiles serve as both a medium and a metaphor for connection, loss, and resistance. Haus of Fiber not only showcases how contemporary artists use textiles in their work but also offers a historical perspective. Textiles have always played a role in the search for identity, in forming communities, and in resisting established (gender, sexual, and intersectional) norms.

[textilmuseum.nl/tentoonstellingen/haus-of-fibre](http://textilmuseum.nl/tentoonstellingen/haus-of-fibre)

Groep

## OPDRACHTEN

2025 750 years amsterdam De Bijenkorf Amsterdam, Nederland September | Yamuna Forzani & Layla Gijsen In September, fashion designer and queer activist Yamuna Forzani will present an exclusive fashion design specifically for de Bijenkorf. Simultaneously, the unique prints and ceramic furniture by conceptual artist Layla Gijsen will be on display. Layla's work reflects Amsterdam's playfulness and creative energy, effortlessly blending art and design.

[www.debijenkorf.nl/evenementen/de-bijenkorf-x-represented-by-agency](http://www.debijenkorf.nl/evenementen/de-bijenkorf-x-represented-by-agency)

Uitgevoerd

## AANKOPEN/WERKEN IN COLLECTIES

2025 It Takes a Village Textile Museum Tilburg Tilburg, Nederland It Takes a Village is a 3D knitted tapestry that is currently on show at the exhibition Haus of Fibre, it was purchased by the museum for their permanent collection

2023 Bound Frans Hals Museum Haarlem, Nederland This piece was purchased by the museum as part of their permanent collection in 2023, it has since been exhibited in 2024 in their exhibition 'The Art of Drag' and is also currently on show.

2021 Over the Rainbow Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland This piece was bought in 2021, it is a tufted art work on stretched canvas 220x180cm.

2021 Jacket, Jumpsuit, Hat Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Nederland For their exhibition called Global Wardrobe, the Kunstmuseum aquired a knitted jacket, knitted jumpsuit and knitted hat that was also on display.

2020 Tilburg Textile Museum Tilburg, Nederland The Textile Museum acquired a knitted tracksuit set, a knitted covid mask, a printed

top and printed skirt for their permanent collection. These pieces were exhibited in a fashion exhibition at the museum

## PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2025 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Nederland

2024 Research / Starter Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Nederland

2024 AFK Stipend AFK, Amsterdam Amsterdam, Nederland

2022 Fashion design award Dutch Design Awards eindhoven, Nederland Yamuna Forzani is modeontwerper, art director, organisator en lid van de huidige Nederlandse ballroom scene – een community door en voor trans BPOC-mensen en niet-binaire en queer mensen van kleur. Ze bedacht in 2018 het concept van The Utopia Ball x Fashion Show: een traditionele ballroom competitie met daaraan toegevoegd een modeshow. Sindsdien is het concept uitgegroeid tot een alternatief platform om het (mode)talent van jonge ontwerpers en deze community te vieren en versterken. In 2021 werd het Utopiabal gehouden in de Kunsthalle in Rotterdam als onderdeel van Rotterdam Pride, mede georganiseerd door Seven Angels. Tijdens het bal vond een modeshow plaats met ontwerpen van leden uit de Nederlandse en Parijse ballroom community: Timothy Scholte, Michelle TSM, Augusto Junior en Miidorie. Yamuna Forzani laat zien wat mode als empowerment inhoudt: ze ontwerpt en creëert het hele samenspel, van een sterke collectie tot cross-disciplinaire community events. Een ‘third space’ waar mensen die op veel andere plekken worden buitengesloten de ruimte krijgen om hun talent en identiteit te exposeren, barstend van de energie en het plezier. Weg van mode die dicteert wat je moet dragen. The Utopia Ball viert de vrijheid

## VERTEGENWOORDIGING

-- Now Gallery Lima, Peru  
<https://www.instagram.com/thisisnow.art/>

van een super genderfluïde collectie; een richtinggevend voorbeeld van wat mode nu kan en moet zijn. Forzani ontwerpt voorbij kledingstukken en de klassieke runway. Vorm en inhoud zijn daarbij al goed in balans, wat nieuwsgierig maakt naar haar volgende stappen.

2021 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Nederland

2020 Milan Design Week grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam / Milan With this grant I was able to not only showcase my work during Design Week Milan but also do a one month residency in Milan and collaborate with the scene there.

2019 Design Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Nederland

2017 Talent Development Grant Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam, Nederland This grant supported me for one year in 2017-2018. With this grant I visited Japan and the US for 3 months, I then came back and made a new collection and organised the first Utopia Ball x Fashion Show in The Hague.

## ARTISTIEKE NEVENACTIVITEITEN

2025 - Teaching at the Design Lab at Rietveld 2025

2024 - Co-curator at the Tilburg Textile 2025 Museum for the exhibition Haus of Fibre

2020 - Teaching at the Fine Arts Department at 2020 KABK



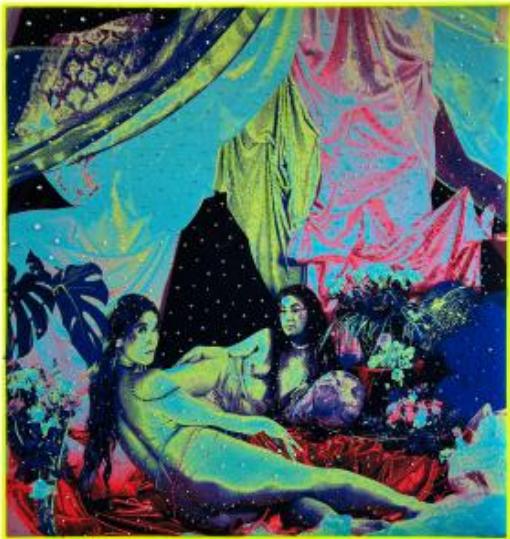
Magnolia, 2025  
Jaquard Knitting, 80x120cm



Dreams, 2025  
Jaquard knit, 170x250cm



It Takes a Village , 2023  
3d knitting, 180x180cm



Mars in Scorpio , 2023  
jaquard knit and embroidery , 180x180cm



Blow Up Den Haag, 2023  
inflatable printed, 8m diameter



Spiritual Urgency , 2022



Bound, 2022  
3D knit, 180x190cm



Froggy Bum Milano, 2022



Utopia Ball After Movie, 2021



Angel Delight , 2021