

SMÖRGÅSBOARD

Melanie Bowles & Kathy Round

This project gives people a system to encourage confidence, creativity and play leading to an understanding of the design process **TT9**. Bowles and Round have worked together to make this textile toolbox: a 'pick and mix' box of pattern, colour and quality. Inspired by researching the origins of kindergarten learning, the designers have developed a beautifully crafted game contained in a box. Smörgås Board is a hands-on game that encourages analogue play and participatory design. The pattern modules can be further translated digitally to create bespoke printed fabrics **TT5**.

Empowering the consumer to be creative and to gain new skills may encourage them to create clothing for themselves that they cherish. By being involved, a level of pleasure and emotional attachment may be attained that leads to products being better looked after, and kept for longer **TT8**. Perhaps they will buy less of the stuff that does not nourish them creatively; perhaps they can be taught – in an innovative and joyful way – how to buy well **TT10**. To invest in the planet, themselves, and in quality 'slow' clothing at the same time.

The toolbox presents a physical 'gift' in the form of laser cut geometric shapes and offers a DIY design loop to print, make, wear. The skirt is digitally printed onto a luxury wool, and echoes the traditional felted wool clothing of the indigenous Sami people **TT6**.

TED strategies

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 **9** 10