



# FELTED FUNERAL

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INSPIRED BY NATURE AND BLENDING INTO THE CYCLE OF NATURE, FELTED URNS MEET A DEMAND FOR NATURAL BURIALS.



Saying goodbye to a loved one is always sad. Rituals can help us cope with grief, and sometimes even add more depth to our feelings towards the deceased, but they cannot remove the loss. Some things, however, can help us express our feelings and emphasise the personality of our loved one or the quality of our relationship.

This is what our felted urns do. They are not about death, even though they are designed to contain the cremated remains of a dead person. An urn conveys something of the person who was recently alive, identifying what was meaningful in that particular, completed life.

The idea of felting an urn came when Line Eskestad lost her mother four years ago; the urn being used then was created from a kind of painted cardboard. As a graphic artist with a knowledge of felt making, she imagined a more beautiful urn made of wool. I - Mette Ostman - am a felt maker, and Pia Busk is a ceramicist. We decided to get together, and so began the journey of developing a felted urn to be made entirely from wool, with form and decoration expressing our ideas while still suitable to meet professional demands

in the cremating and funeral process. We don't recommend this as a DIY project since there are so many considerations in addition to felting the urn.

It has taken quite a while and a lot of effort. Not only the felting part, but also the commercial issues and the design of a functional workflow have been new to us. The urns - and our trademark Uurna - are registered ® to ensure that the rights belong to us.

We use mostly local wool from the island of Funen where we live and respect this resource, intending to show that many new ideas can come from the combination of wool and skilled craftsmanship. We enjoy working with wool, the qualities of the fibres being so different depending on the sheep breed. We often use raw wool that hasn't even been carded or washed. The Gotland sheep with its fine curly fleece and variety of grey colours makes an interesting structure. The raw wool creates a fine texture but needs to be mixed with slightly coarser wool to maintain the shape.

The urns are inspired by nature and named according to their design. For example, the Birch urn is inspired by the pattern and colour of the bark of a birch tree.

Apart from these designs, we also make

customised urns for people with special wishes regarding colour and shape. We meet people who bring a token connected to happy memories that they want us to incorporate as a button or decoration; this could be a seashell from a seaside holiday, a branch from an apple tree in their garden, or perhaps an ancient symbol, a runic letter, a bird or fish.

The felting is essential in these urns. The felted wool is a soft material and yet it is firm and strong. It can be shaped almost as clay and it has no seams or joints.

The felting is done by hand and the wool has thus been stroked and caressed, as all feltmakers know. It is a sensuous process, and the material of the finished urn also appeals to the senses of the person holding it, feeling warm and gentle.

CONTACTS

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IMAGES

Left to right, top to bottom) Owl Antler Urn. Birch Urn. Onion Urn. Owl Urn. Spot Urn. UURNA-logo.

PHOTO CREDITS: METTE ØSTMAN  
THOSE LEFT BEHIND - UURNA