

# Michelle Meurisch

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PORTFOLIO.

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# About me.

My name is Michelle Meurisch, I am 25 years old and since October 2024 I have been studying German Studies and Textile Studies at Osnabrück University. My goal is to become a primary school teacher, as this profession allows me to fully apply my sense of responsibility in everyday life.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my partner and discovering new countries and cultures. If I have to choose between mountains and the sea, I never hesitate to pick the sea. Spending time with my family and friends is especially important to me. I am always enthusiastic about cozy evenings, trips together, or fun game nights.

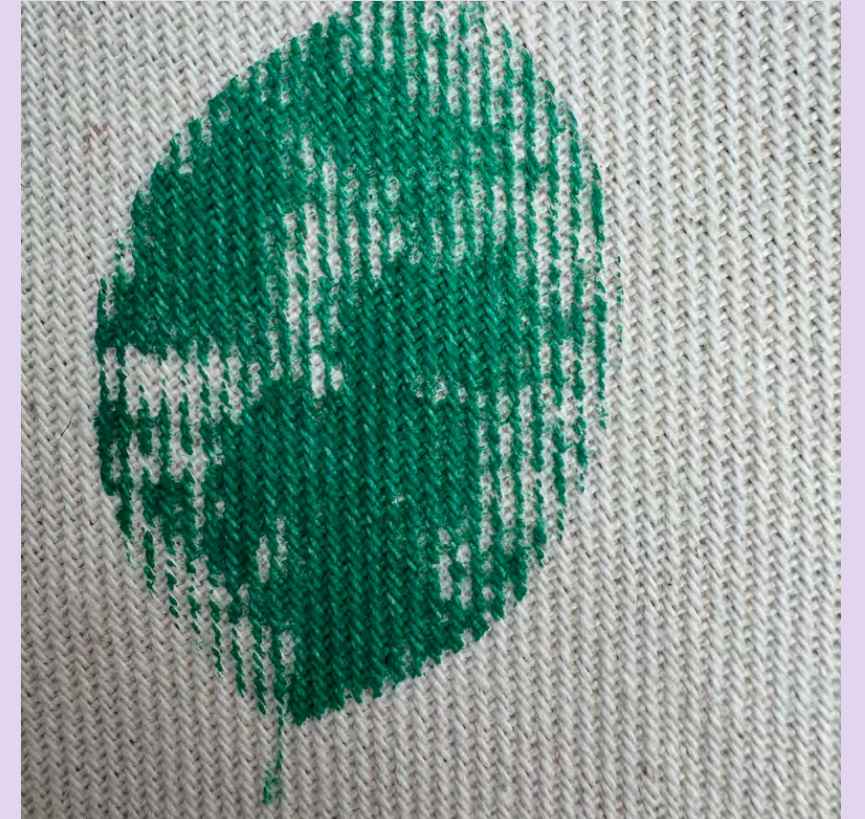
If there is one thing I truly am, it's a summer child. I love swimming outdoors and watching the sunset in the evenings – that's when I can relax and recharge. Our little dog accompanies me on many walks, and we especially enjoy exploring new, unfamiliar paths.



# Printing.

In a seminar, we experimented with different printing techniques on fabric. For this, we used plant leaves, stencils, and everyday objects. Among other things, I made a flower stamp out of a cardboard roll and experimented with it.

This practical method is especially valuable for me as a future teacher, since it can be carried out creatively with simple means and is very suitable for textile education in primary school.







# Pottery.

During my voluntary service at a youth café, I offered a pottery course. Together we shaped bowls, plates, and other objects from clay. Depending on the desired design, various materials were used to create patterns on the clay pieces.

I decorated the surface with plant leaves, pressing them into the moist clay. After drying, the pieces were glazed and then fired in the kiln.

Two of my favorite self-made pottery pieces are bowls: a smaller one in which I keep my jewelry, and a larger one that is perfect for serving.





# Marbling.

As part of a seminar, I tried out different marbling techniques. For the first technique, I sprayed a layer of foam onto a flat plate, smoothed it with a spatula, and dropped marbling colors onto the foam. Using a wooden stick, I swirled the colors to create unique patterns. I then carefully placed the fabric on the colored foam surface and pressed it down. After removing the fabric, I scraped off the excess foam, leaving behind a one-of-a-kind pattern.

Next, I experimented with the traditional Turkish marbling technique called Ebru. First, water was thickened with alum so that the colors would stay on the surface. I then dropped different water-soluble colors onto the surface, dragged them with wooden sticks, and created various patterns.

The combination of chance and creative freedom brought me great joy. Ebru requires more patience and sensitivity than the foam technique but also offers more creative possibilities.







# Sewn Book.

I created this book during a block course in Textile Studies. It is intended as a practical companion for my studies and beyond. I can look up at any time how certain sewing techniques work.

It contains clear instructions with examples, such as sewing on different types of buttons, inserting zippers and hook-and-loop fasteners, or replicating jeans seams.



For processing a zipper, two fabric pieces are first cut and reinforced with interfacing. Then the edges are ironed and finished before inserting the zipper with the special zipper foot. Step by step, this results in a neat and durable finish that can also be applied to garments or bags.





# Patchwork.

Patchwork is a textile technique in which many fabric pieces are combined into a new overall design. For my sample, I cut fabric remnants into rectangles and arranged them into a pattern. I then sewed the patches together using a straight stitch on the sewing machine.

In addition to basic sewing skills such as cutting, basting, and stitching, patchwork fosters skills like accuracy, perseverance, and careful planning. At the same time, it allows for creativity: I decide myself which shapes, colors, and patterns to combine.







# Weaving.

I practiced weaving on both a self-made cardboard loom and a wooden frame. On the cardboard loom, I worked with ochre-colored yarn in plain weave. The violet section I wove in twill weave.



By deliberately alternating yarn thicknesses (thin cotton yarn as warp versus thicker polyester-wool blend yarn as weft), I could observe changes in texture, feel, and stability. I learned how crucial even tension in warp and weft is to avoid fabric distortion and achieve clean edges.



# Creation of a Decorative Pillow.

During my self-study, I developed a unique pillow by combining the textile finishing techniques of **sewing**, **dyeing**, and **embroidery**.

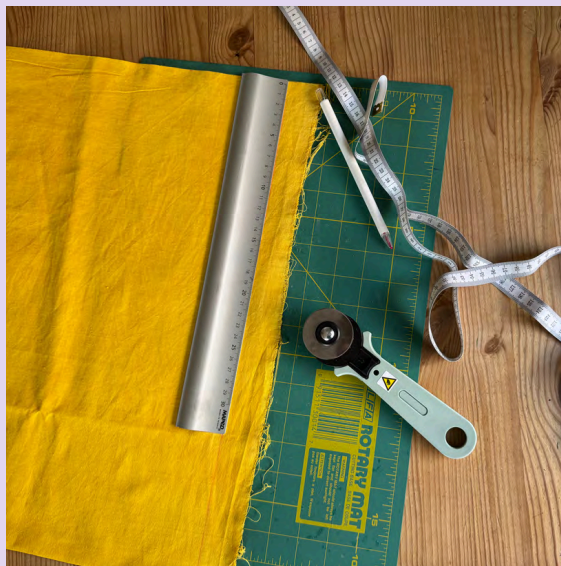
## 1. Finishing Technique: Dyeing

I chose white cotton fabric in plain weave, which I dyed sustainably with the natural dye turmeric. To improve color absorption and durability, I first pretreated the fabric with an alum solution by dissolving alum in hot water and soaking the fabric for 30 minutes. I then boiled turmeric powder in water and simmered the fabric for one hour. The result was a bright yellow shade, which I especially liked for its intense color and connection to sustainability.





# Textile Finishing Techniques: A Decorative Pillow.



## Cutting

After dyeing, I rinsed the fabric, let it dry, and ironed it to create a smooth surface for embroidery. I then cut it to the desired size. The pillow was to be 40 x 40 cm, so I calculated the dimensions including extra fabric for the envelope closure and seam allowance. An envelope closure is made by overlapping fabric pieces to close the pillow.

## 2. Finishing Technique: Embroidery

For embroidery, I used pearl cotton in three colors as well as a water-soluble embroidery marker and stabilizer. I transferred my chosen design onto the stabilizer with the marker, attached it to the dyed fabric, and stretched it in the embroidery hoop. I used fly stitch for the letters and backstitch for the floral elements. After embroidering, I rinsed out the stabilizer and let the fabric dry completely.





# Textile Finishing Techniques: A Decorative Pillow.

## 3. Finishing Technique: Sewing

Before sewing the pieces together, I ironed the fabric again and finished all edges with a zigzag stitch to prevent fraying. Then I sewed the pillowcase together with a straight stitch and opted for an envelope closure.

I had long wanted to design a decorative pillow myself, and this project was the perfect opportunity. What I particularly like about the result is the warm, radiant yellow color, which I associate with ease, light, and warmth. It is not only a functional accessory but also a unique piece that gives me a true summer feeling.





# CV.

## Contact

Name

Date of birth

Place of birth

Address

Phone

E-Mail

## Education and Work Experience

Since 10/2024

B.A. Education, Teaching, and Learning

Textile Studies and German Studies

Universität Osnabrück

## Completed Modules

- Fundamentals of Culture and Textile Science (I + II)
- Fundamentals and systematics of the textile value chain (I + II)
- Fundamentals of textile didactic concepts
- Workshop and Studio Work