

PATRON WITHOUT TRAGEDIAN: PATRON IN PORTUGAL

Below is my artist's statement for the exhibition **Contextile 2026**, at the **Bienal de Arte Têxtil Contemporânea**, Guimarães | Portugal (05/09-29/11/2026).

Exhibition's theme: BY A THREAD / POR UM FIO

I specified between brackets, that the title *PATRON* is to be understood as patron of the arts.

The recto and verso photographs of the sculpture placed on a North Indian *ralli* quilt, show it in the collapsed state in which it was boxed and shipped (without the quilt) to the museum.

Patron (of the Arts) is a three-part collapsible sculpture made of sheathed hollow aluminium rods and shaped vintage and antique textiles. Handstitched in Switzerland in 2026, its various fragments combine hand-knotted carpet, Kelim, Soumakh Kelim, printed cloth, and embroidery from Persia, the Caucasus, India, and Central Asia.

Patron is a multipositionist textile, whose modifiable form adapts to the way it is installed. It challenges two received ideas: 1) that an artwork should have a single form, and 2) that innovation can be more radical than recycling.

