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Position paper: Transformation in the weaving craft

Thesis 1:

The weaving craft is transforming from a utilitarian craft to a meaningful craft.

Today, the primary value lies less in the function of the object than in its cultural, aesthetic and symbolic significance.

Thesis 2:

Sustainability is not innovation in the weaving craft, but rather legitimisation.

What used to be a necessity (local materials, repairability) is now becoming a key argument for the future in contrast to industrial mass production.

Thesis 3:

Transformation does not mean the technologisation of technology, but rather the digitalisation of context

Digital tools hardly change the weaving process itself, but they do change marketing, knowledge transfer and visibility.

Thesis 4:

Tradition is kept alive not by preservation, but by translation.

Traditional weaving techniques survive when they are reinterpreted in terms of design, materials or concept.

Thesis 5:

The weaving craft is shifting from product to process logic.

The manufacturing process, material knowledge and craftsmanship themselves become a communicable value (workshops, performativity, communication).

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Thesis 6:

The role of weavers is changing to a hybrid identity.

Contemporary weavers are simultaneously craftspeople, designers, teachers and storytellers.

Thesis 7:

Transformation in the weaving craft is closely linked to de-economisation.

Many sustainable models emerge beyond traditional growth logic – through promotion, project work, cooperation and cultural integration.

Thesis 8:

The market for basketry products is a relationship market.

Buying decisions are based less on price and utility and more on proximity, trust, attitude and authenticity.

Thesis 9:

The weaving craft becomes a testing ground for post-industrial craft.

It exemplifies how craft can develop sustainability without scaling, but with meaning.

Thesis 10:

Institutions such as chambers of crafts play a supporting and networking role in the transformation of the weaving craft.

They create structural framework conditions, enable exchange and contribute to the stabilisation and visibility of innovative craft practices without predetermining their content.
