



**THE ENCHANTED FOREST**  
Foxy Lady followed a year later and was part of the theme, animals of the forest. The animals that she designed on her knitted dresses were a cockatoo, tiger, fox, deer, monkey and a zebra's body and legs. The animals were woven into a botanical background of branches and leaves in greens and black. When all the dresses are stood together one can clearly see the forested background. This idea of each animal being able to stand alone as a separate entity and then together with the other animals to form an enchanting, magical,

moving forest is an innovative and amusing idea. She also used an open weave, where some threads were pulled to give different textures. Always full of little surprises, Christa opened up and shortened the back of the knitted deer dress to reveal a cute little white tail, sewn onto a pair of bikini bottoms.

**SECOND SKIN**  
Another personal theme that she has used for many years is the tattoo. She herself is tattooed and is fascinated by their detail and creativity and made her own tattooed Balaclava in wool and her famous arm-warmers, which have become classics in her collection. In her day wear collection knitted pullovers made of wool lattice work are added to industrial fabrics with holes. There are simple draped knits, wrap-around dresses with circular, pull-on mini skirts. She introduces a macramé pattern with stripes and hearts in red and white, which run into scarves, pullovers and pants. The inspiration for these came from the enamel-decorated wall of Chatelet-Halle metro station in Paris.



**KNIGHTS IN NEON**  
Fashion can be likened to a snake; as it doubles back on itself, what is most modern is also revealed as having a relationship with what is most old. It was with this idea of bringing something from the past to the present that Christa unpleated the hidden folds in a fan of recollection with her knitted collection of Knights, Castles, and the Romance of the Middle Ages. This collection gained her a nomination for the coveted Jury prize in Zurich. In order to break the classic theme and to bring elements of today into her clothes she used shiny Lurex in turquoise blue, grey gold, neon green, and neon pink in her designs. She designed images of castles, shields with swans in brown and white and moats on her clothes; first drawing them and then scanning the image into the machine. Christa added felting to the knits to give texture and slashed her long armoured knitted dresses to reveal a peep of hot pants.

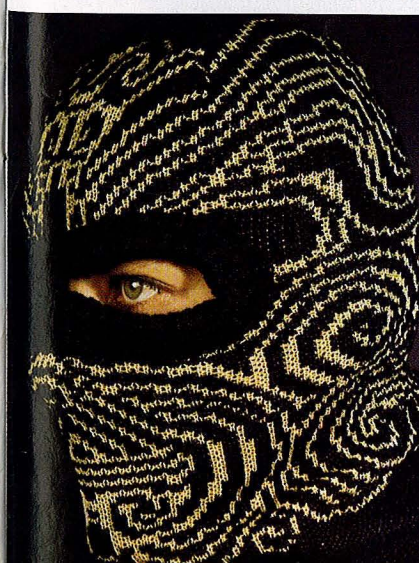


There is a very subtle re-emergence of knitting, not as wearable art, as was the fashion 30 to 40 years ago, but now much finer, suggesting decoration and beauty. Christa has incorporated her skills as a knitter with a sense of humour and instead of making a traditional flat cloth for a wall, or intricate hand-knitted and knotted wearable art, she has presented something that lies between the two. She has created art not for art's sake, but for knit's sake. It can hang in an office, corporate building, factory, or home; for within its simple shape lies a story. Each stitch has been built from a thousand stitches that went before. Art does not transform our feelings, but allows us to see them in advance.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Christa's work can be seen at; Thema Selection, Spiegelgasse 16, 8001 Zurich and Saus und Braus, Ankerstrasse 14, 8004 Zürich. Contact Christa Michel at christami@gmx.ch



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT 'Stricktrek' 2003 explores the theme of science fiction; 'Foxy Lady' is part of a series of animals in the forest; 'Tattoo' arm warmers; Self portrait of Christa Michel in wool knit; Tattoo-inspired balaclava; Christa's day wear collection, inspired by the decoration of the Paris Metro station Chatelet-Halle

