

Amica Sundström

1973–2024

Amica Sundström, Stockholm, the first Antiquarian at the National Historical Museums has passed away at the age of 51. It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our dear friend Amica Sundström after a period of illness. Amica leaves behind a daughter, parents, siblings with their families, as well as many friends and colleagues in the textile field worldwide. Amica grew up in Stockholm and, after studying textile crafts at S:t Göran's Gymnasium, continued her studies in hand weaving at Stockholm Folk High School in Årsta. She then moved to Borås to study hand weaving at Väfskolan, the Textile School in Borås. At Väfskolan, Amica's interest in the analysis and reconstruction of older textiles was sparked, and this became an important focus throughout her career.

After studying archaeology at the University of Gothenburg and Stockholm University, Amica worked as a lecturer in woven constructions at Konstfack in Stockholm for 18 years. Concurrently, Amica worked on analysis projects and reconstructions of primarily archaeological textiles, such as the Gerum cloak and the horsehair-bound bands on the Högom man's outfit. In 2018, she was employed as the first textile antiquarian, a position she held at the time of her passing. Alongside this, Amica ran the company Historical Textiles and worked as an interpreter at the visual interpretation training centre at Fellingsbro Folk High School.

Amica had a great commitment to the dissemination of knowledge about textiles, and her technical expertise in textile constructions was immensely valuable in her work with the analysis of historical textiles. She was a co-founder of the Swedish Weaving Academy in 2017 and co-author of *The Art of Weaving* in 2021, together with Åsa Pärsson. The collective work to recreate four gold-embroidered medieval quilts resulted, among other things, in Amica and Maria Neijman being awarded the Mandelgren Prize by the Swedish Antiquarian Society in 2021.



Amica Sundström (Image: Bonnier)

Amica was an enthusiastic, curious, and generous friend and colleague. Her deep textile knowledge and willingness to share it will be missed by all who met her. The Historical Textiles Facebook page received an outpouring of affection and respect for Amica and her work. Here are some of the (anonymised) comments. Many of them were addressed to Maria Neijman, her colleague and fellow self-styled "textile nerd" at Historical Textiles (historicaltextiles.org):

"So very sad. Far too early to lose such a talented woman, researcher and above all, a formidable communicator ... Amica was such a sweet soul! It seems impossible to accept that someone who was so happy and alive just a few months ago, is now no longer here ... The sharing of knowledge, work and enthusiasm we have seen from both of you over the years is wonderful, and Amica is such a great loss ... A terribly sad loss, a young, talented researcher, a good loving person ... Amica was a kind and generous person. She shared her knowledge so freely and with excitement ... [Amica] was an example, and you are both an inspiration. A great loss but all the lessons and research are here to stay ... I remember fondly how she dressed to show off the

fabric from Margaret's golden skirt, how it shone in her eyes with joy and pride ... It is impossible to extinguish a star like Amica! We, who have had the pleasure of sharing Amica's unparalleled knowledge and wholehearted commitment to what she found joy in, have a hard time believing that she no longer shines ... [Amica] was a brilliant and amazing human being – I've learned so much through her work ... [Amica] was a bright light in the corona period and a beacon of knowledge ... [Amica] has left so many wonderful impressions behind, among other things with her art, knowledge, creativity and friendship."

*By Maria Neijman,
friends and colleagues*