Letters INDEX
Gunnar Aagaard Andersen



kvadrat



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Type: Upholstery
Composition: 50% cotton, 42% new wool, 8% nylon
Number of colours: 1
Width: 140cm

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Originally created in the mid-1950s, *Letters INDEX* is an upholstery textile by Danish artist and designer Gunnar Aagaard Andersen (1919-1982). Constructed using an épinglé technique, it is exceptionally hardwearing and suitable for high-traffic commercial environments as well as residential interiors.

Based on graphic collages of fragmented letters and numbers, its oversized typographic forms create a bold, abstract composition in which written language becomes pattern. Presented in black and white, the restricted palette strengthens the graphic character of the design.

Gunnar Aagaard Andersen: *"The written language contains so much redundancy – superficially superfluous information – that we could do without part of the letters and entire letters and still get the message."*

The written form held a particular fascination for Aagaard Andersen, and he often worked with graphic and typological motifs. He always began with a small font size, which he then enlarged, observing how as the characters increased in size, their contours became less precise, with 'woolly' edges. Rather than correcting these variations, which occurred as a natural consequence of mechanical repetition, Aagaard Andersen embraced the industrial fault as an intrinsic artistic effect.

Kvadrat INDEX
Kvadrat INDEX is a curated edit of textiles with enduring design relevance. Uniting heritage and tradition with innovation and contemporary practice, it is an act of stewardship that celebrates Kvadrat's craft, creativity and collaboration.

Gunnar Aagaard Andersen
Artist, sculptor, architect, graphic designer, scenographer, composer, furniture and textile designer Gunnar Aagaard Andersen (1919-1982) was a pioneer of Danish Modern Art.

Educated at the School of Arts and Crafts and the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, where he later became a professor, Aagaard Andersen worked across disciplines, often at the intersection of art and design. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he was a member of the artist group Linien II. During the same period, he spent time in Paris, where his study of the old masters at the Louvre helped shape the compositional principles that would inform his later work.

For Aagaard Andersen, rules had to be understood before they could be broken. He experimented with unexpected media and new materials, exploring non-figurative expressionism, the refraction of light, the nature of colour and the structure of form, and continually testing established boundaries. His work with textiles and colour was similarly systematic. Drawing on visual and sensory impressions, he transformed motifs into dynamic compositions of line, colour and form. His textile designs often developed from paintings, translating an analytical approach to colour and composition into woven form.

Kvadrat
Kvadrat was established in Denmark in 1968 and has deep roots in Scandinavia's world-famous design tradition. A leader in design innovation, Kvadrat produces high-performance, design textiles, rugs, acoustic and window covering solutions for both commercial and residential interiors.

Our products reflect our commitment to colour, quality, simplicity and innovation. We consistently push the aesthetic, technological and functional properties of textiles. In doing so, we collaborate with leading designers, architects and artists including: Miriam Bäckström, Raf Simons, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Thomas Demand, Olafur Eliasson, Alfredo Häberli, Akira Minagawa, Peter Saville, Roman Signer, Doshi Levien and Patricia Urquiola.

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