

Hella Jongerius' (1963, the Netherlands) work combines the traditional with the contemporary, the newest technologies with age-old craft techniques. She aims to create products with individual character by including craft elements in the industrial production process.

Jongerius sees her work as part of a never-ending process, and the same is essentially true of all Jongerius' designs: they possess the power of the final stage, while also communicating that they are part of something greater, with both a past and an uncertain future. The unfinished, the provisional, the possible – they reside in the attention to imperfections, traces of the creation process, and the revealed potential of materials and techniques. Through this working method, Jongerius not only celebrates the value of the process, but also engages the viewer, the user, in her investigation.

Proactively she deals with this cultural field at the intersection of aesthetics, philosophy, ethics and ecology, by addressing urgent themes through her work. From the very start of her career, Jongerius refrained from the conventional approach of trying to meet market demands. Instead, she set her own agenda by focusing on the question how to improve design's mediating role between people and world and by exploring that question by means of thorough research and experimentation. Her distinct approach resulted in multi-layered research projects, iconic industrial products.

In 1993, after graduating at the Academy of Industrial Design in Eindhoven, she founded the Jongeriuslab studio, where independent projects as well as works for major clients are developed, including textile designs for the upholstery fabric company Maharam, the interior design of the Delegates' Lounge of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, cabin interiors for the airline KLM, the installation 'Colour Recipe Research' at the invitation of curator Hans Ulrich Obrist for the MAK (Vienna) and the installation 'A Search behind Appearances' commissioned by Serpentine Galleries.

Recent projects include solo exhibitions at the Gropius Bau, Berlin (2021), Lafayette Anticipations (2019) and Nationalmuseum, Stockholm (2019). Her Space Loom #1 was acquired by Centre Pompidou in 2019.

In 2021, Hella Jongerius was awarded the Dutch BNO Piet Zwart Prize, which is an honourable award for a designer who is of great significance to the profession and sets an example for new generations of designers. In 2023 she was named Honorary Royal Designer for Industry by the Royal Society of the Arts in London, for her sustained design excellence, work of aesthetic value and significant benefit to society.

In recent years Jongerius has been focusing on research projects, resulting in exhibitions such as Breathing colour (solo exhibition at the Design Museum, London, 2017) Interlace – textile research (solo exhibition at Lafayette Anticipations, Paris, 2019) and Woven Cosmos (solo exhibition at Gropius Bau, Berlin, 2021).

Many of Jongerius' products can be found in the permanent collections of museums such as MoMA, New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London as well as Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, Centre Pompidou, Paris. In 2024 the Vitra Design Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany) placed her extensive archive into the hands of the Vitra Design Museum, whose curators will collaborate with the designer on developing the first retrospective of her work, scheduled to open in 2026.

Since 2009 Hella Jongerius lives and works in Berlin.

CV Hella Jongerius

born 1963 in De Meern, The Netherlands

1988–1993 Academy for Industrial Design (Eindhoven, the Netherlands)

1993 Starts with design studio Jongeriuslab (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

2009 Opens studio in Berlin, Germany

2021 Opens studio in Arnhem, Netherlands

Exhibitions and collections (selected):

2024 Textile Museum Tilburg (the Netherlands) acquires the textile archive

2024 Vitra Design Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany) acquires the Hella Jongerius archive

2024 Victoria and Albert Museum (London, UK) acquires ceramics and textile pieces

2023 Die Neue Sammlung (Munich, Germany) acquires four 3D-woven objects

2022 The Museum of Modern Art (New York, USA) acquires the UN Lounge Chair

2021 Woven Cosmos, solo exhibition at Gropius Bau (Berlin, Germany)

2021 Here We Are!, touring group exhibition commissioned by Vitra Design Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany)

2020 Breathing Colour at Gewerbemuseum Winterthur (Switzerland)

2019 Centre Pompidou, Paris, acquires the monumental woven work Space Loom #1

2019 Entrelacs, une recherche tissée / Interlace, textile research, exhibition at Lafayette Anticipations (Paris, France)

2019 the Design Museum of Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, acquired the shadow play installations of 'A Search Behind Appearances'

2019 Breathing Colour, touring exhibition at Nationalmuseum (Stockholm, Sweden)

2018 Woven Movie 7:30 PM acquired by the Musée des Arts Decoratifs (Paris, France)

2018 Beyond the New exhibition at MUDAM (Luxembourg)

2018 Breathing Colour, touring exhibition at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

2017 Beyond the New, exhibition with Louise Schouwenberg for Pinakothek der Moderne, Die Neue Sammlung (Munich, Germany)

2017 Breathing Colour, touring exhibition for Design Museum London (London, UK)

2016 A search behind appearances, Shadow play, installation commissioned by Serpentine Galleries, for La Rinascente department stores; with Louise Schouwenberg (Milan)

2016 Dream Out Loud - Designing for Tomorrow's Demands, group exhibition at Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2016 The Bauhaus - It's all design, group exhibition at Bundeskunsthalle (Bonn, Germany)

2016 Colour Machine, installation about the Colour and Material Library for Vitra (Milan, Italy)

2016 Pathmakers. Women in Art, Craft and Design, Midcentury and Today, at Museum of Arts and Design (New York, USA)

2015 FNAC - Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (France) acquires Daylight Colour Wheel, Hopsak Colour Wheel, small circle of Coloured Vases (series 3), Backpack Sofa and several textiles for Maharam

2015 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum (New York) acquires the textiles Eden, Foliage, Fruit and Borders

2014 Colour Recipe Research, installation for group exhibition Exemplary at the MAK (Vienna, Austria)

2014 Victoria and Albert Museum acquires the UN Lounge Chair (London, UK)

2013 Four Seasons Teapot acquired by the Indianapolis Museum of Art (Indianapolis, USA)

2011 Victoria and Albert Museum acquires the Delft B-jug (London, UK)

2010 Misfit, solo exhibition at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)

2010 Taking a Stance, a representative overview for Dutch DFA at the Dutch Cultural Centre (Shanghai, China)

2007 'Inside Colours' installation for 'MyHome' exhibition at Vitra Design Museum (Basel, Switzerland)

2005 Ideal House at the Internationale Möbelmesse Köln (Cologne, Germany)

2005 'On the shelves' solo exhibition Hella Jongerius at Villa Noailles (Hyeres, France)

2005 Guest curator for Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, New York; selection of work from the permanent collection and design of 'Paravents' inspired by this collection (New York, USA)

2003 Solo exhibition at the Design Museum (London, UK)

2002 Skin: Surface and Structure in Contemporary Design, Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum (New York, USA)

2001 Develops the My Soft Office series of futuristic office furniture for the Work-spheres exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (New York, USA)

1996 Self-Manufacturing Designers exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

1996 Thresholds in Contemporary Design from the Netherlands, Museum of Contemporary Art (New York, USA)

1995 Mutant Materials in Contemporary Design, The Museum of Modern Art (New York, USA)

1994 Participant at the first Droog Design exhibition at the Milan Furniture Fair with Bath Mat (Milan, Italy)

Clients (selected):

since 2002 upholstery textile design for Maharam (New York, USA)

since 2005 furniture design and Art Director for colours and materials at Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

since 2011 cabin interior and seat design for KLM (Amstelveen, The Netherlands)

2012-2018 Design Director and designer of rugs for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

since 2017 ceramic tile design for Mutina (Fiorano, Italy)

Projects and work (selected):

2024 Chorus and Jetty textiles for Maharam (New York, USA)

2023 Twain chair for Magis (Torre di Mosto, Italy) a collaboration with Konstantin Grcic

2023 Generation T for Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory (Munich, Germany)

2023 Loom Room, site specific 3D handwoven object for Technical University Eindhoven (the Netherlands)

2023 Twain chair for Magis (Torre di Mosto, Italy) in collaboration with Konstantin Grcic

2022 Spindle and Washi textiles for Maharam (New York, USA)

2021 Remake of Silberstoff textile for the Bauhaus Monument Bernau (Germany) in collaboration with the Anni Albers Foundation (New York, USA)

2020 Warp #1 for the Vitra Centre by Frank Gehry (Basel, Switzerland)

2021 Carpenter's Workshop Gallery acquires the Porcelain Stool (New York, USA)

2019 Vlinder Sofa, Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2019 Diamond Vase and Facet Bottle, Galerie kreO (Paris, France)

2019 Shore and Slope, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

2018 Diarama, collection of tiles for Mutina (Fiorano, Italy)

2018 Sienna and September, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

2018 8:15am Morning Weave, Galerie kreO (Paris, France)

2018 7:00pm Evening Weave, Galerie kreO (Paris, France)

2018 Lattice, Silhouette and Glory, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

2017 Tile Tables, Galerie kreO (Paris, France)

2017 Flutter, embroidered upholstery textile for Maharam (New York, USA)

2016 Inlay, Colorfield and Chroma for Maharam (New York, USA)

2016 Cocoon, Landscape and Cross, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2015 Cabin interior and seat design for Economy Class and World Business Class, Boeing 777 and Boeing 787, KLM (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2015 Update of the Polder Sofa for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2015 Argali and Dew, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2015 Re-interpretation of Armchair 402 from Alvar Aalto for Artek (Finland)

2015 New colour palette for the EPC range of Ray and Charles Eames for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2014 Carapace, Foliage and Eden, upholstery textiles for Maharam (New York, USA)

2014 Re-interpretation of Chair 400, Cahir 401 and Stool 60 by Alvar Aalto for Artek

2014 East River Chair for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2014 Cork&Felt, carpet for Danskina (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2013 Knots & Beads Curtain, special design for the North Delegates' Lounge of the UN Headquarters in New York (NL / New York, USA)

2013 Gemstone Tables for Galerie Kreo (Paris, France)

2013 Bold, Duotone and Multitone, carpets for Danskina, Kvadrat and Maharam's rug atelier (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2013 United Nations; interior design for North Delegates' Lounge, assignment of Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Bead Curtain, Sphere Table and RE-Lounge chair (NL / New York, USA)

2013 Cabin interior and seat design for World Business Class, Boeing 747-400, KLM (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2012 Hours, Colorwheel and Vases, upholstery textiles for Maharam (New York, USA)

2012 Sphere Table for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2010 Colourful Blacks, 16 shades of black paint, in cooperation with kt.COLOR (Zürich, Switzerland)

2010 Coloured Vases series 3, colour research in cooperation with Royal Tichelaar Makkum, (the Netherlands)

2009 Artificial Flowers for Galerie Kreo (Paris, France)

2009 Frog Table for Galerie Kreo (Paris, France)

2008 Swatch Table, a modern version of a mosaic table for Galerie Kreo (Paris, France)

2007 Office Pets, limited edition for Vitra Edition (Basel, Switzerland)

2007 Layers series of upholstery fabrics for Maharam (New York, USA)

2006 Porcelain colour research for Royal Tichelaar Makkum (the Netherlands)

2006 Worker chair for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)

2005 Polder sofa for Vitra (Basel, Switzerland)
2005 PS Jonsberg vases for IKEA (Sweden)
2004 Nymphenburg Sketches and Animal Bowls for Nymphenburg Porcelain Manufactory (Munich, Germany)
2002 Repeat series of upholstery fabrics for Maharam (New York, USA)
1999 Kasese Foam Chair and Sheep Chair for Cappellini Milan, produced by Jongeriuslab and Felt Stool for Cappellini Milan, produced by Jongeriuslab (Rotterdam, the Netherlands)
1998 B-set collection of intentionally imperfect industrially produced tableware for Royal Tichelaar Makkum (the Netherlands)
1994 Soft Urn and Soft Vase series of polyurethane vases for Droog Design (the Netherlands)

Publications (selected):

2021 Woven Cosmos exhibition publication, texts by Stephanie Rosenthal, Clara Meister and others, published by Buch- und Offset druckerei H. Heeneman
2019 Interlace, Woven Research, texts by Alice Rawsthorn, Anne Röhl, Hans den Hartog Jager a.o., graphic design by Irma Boom, Walther König Verlag
2017 Beyond the new – On the Agency of Things, book by Louise Schouwenberg and Hella Jongerius for Pinakothek der Moderne, Die Neue Sammlung, graphic design by Irma Boom, Walther König Verlag
2016 I don't have a favourite colour, creating the Vitra colour and material library, Gestalten
2015 Beyond the new – a search for ideals in design, manifest with Louise Schouwenberg
2011 Misfit, texts by Louise Schouwenberg, Alice Rawsthorn and Paola Antonelli, graphic design by Irma Boom, 308 pages, Phaidon Publishers
2003 Hella Jongerius, text by Louise Schouwenberg, 152 pages, Phaidon Publishers

Awards (selected)

2024 Inauguration as member of the Member of Akademie van Kunsten (Society of Arts, part of the Royal Dutch Society for Science), the Netherlands
2023 Named Honorary Royal Designer for Industry by the Royal Society of the Arts, UK
2021 Piet Zwart Prize, the oeuvre prize of the BNO (Association of Dutch Designers), the Netherlands
2017 Sikkens Prize for her extensive research on color, the Sikkens Foundation, the Netherlands
2004 Créateur de l'Année du Salon du Meuble , France
2003 Rotterdam Design Award for textile design Repeat, the Netherlands

Talks and lectures (selected):

2023 Lecture at the Make Good Symposium by the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, UK)

2023 Lecture at Universität der Künste (Berlin, Germany)

2022 Talk at Design Dialogues | Design x Craft by Design Museum Gent (Belgium)

2019 Presentation at Textiles on the Move conference at Saxion University of Applied Arts (Enschede, the Netherlands)

2019 Lecture at Rhode Island School of Design (USA)

2017 A smart thread, design workshop at Minerva Academy (Groningen, the Netherlands)

2010 and 2013 Guest professor at Weißensee academy of Art (Berlin, Germany)

2000-2004 Head of the department Living at Design Academy Eindhoven (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)

1998-1999 Teacher at Design Academy Eindhoven (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)