

INTERNATIONAL UPCYCLING COMPETITION

REGULATIONS

PURPOSE

An international competition organized by the French Federation of Lace and Embroidery (FFDB) aimed at students from higher education institutions specializing in applied arts or fashion.

THEME

Creative proposals for recycling residual materials from lace and embroidery production.

1 - CONTEXT

The Fédération Française des Dentelles et Broderies (FFDB) is an independent professional organization created in 1935, inheriting the legacy of the great corporations of the Middle Ages.

It brings together major manufacturers of «mechanical» lace and embroidery, primarily based in Hauts-de-France, with some in Auvergne and Pays de la Loire, as well as renowned hand embroidery workshops.

These houses, many of which are over a century old and carry the «Entreprise du Patrimoine Vivant» label, have preserved unique know-how while innovating in creation and production. Whether it be Calais-Caudry® lace made on traditional Leavers looms, mechanical bobbin lace, or embroidery on high-tech machines, they continue to supply luxury sectors worldwide, including haute couture, ready-to-wear, lingerie, and accessories.

Actively supporting young talents, these manufacturers collaborate with higher education institutions in textile arts and design. With a strong focus on environmental and social responsibility, they prioritize eco-friendly sourcing, certified materials (e.g., OEKO-TEX®, GOTS), and sustainable practices.

Aligned with this commitment, the FFDB is launching an international upcycling competition for residual materials from lace and embroidery production, targeting students in fashion and applied arts schools.

The competition aims to raise awareness among creators about lace and embroidery techniques and encourages eco-responsibility.

For its inaugural edition, this initiative will involve four institutions :

ENSAA Duperré / PARIS / FRANCE

DUPERRE.ORG/

De Montfort University / LEICESTER / ENGLAND

DMU.AC.UK/HOME.ASPX

Université Akaki Tsereteli / KUTAISI / GEORGIA

ATSU.EDU.GE/GE/HOME

Weißensee Kunsthochschule / BERLIN / GERMANY

KH-BERLIN.DE/

PARTICIPATING MANUFACTURERS

FOR LEAVERS LACE (DENTELLE DE CALAIS-CAUDRY® LABEL / G.I.) / DENTELLEDECALAISCAUDRY.FR

Beauvillain Davoine / BEAUVILLAIN-DAVOINE.COM

Darquer & Méry / DARQUER-MERY.FR

Dentelles André Laude / DENTELLES-LAUDE.FR

Jean Bracq / JEANBRACQ.COM

Solstiss / SOLSTISS.COM

Sophie Hallette / SOPHIEHALLETTE.COM

FOR MECHANIZED BOBBIN LACE

Société Choletaise de Fabrication / SCFL.FR

FOR EMBROIDERY

Broderies Langlet / BRODERIES-LANGLLET.COM

Broderies Leveaux / BRODERIES-LEVEAUX.FR

Potencier broderies / POTENCIER.COM

The competition will involve various partners, including the Lace and Embroidery Museum in Caudry and the City of Lace and Fashion (CIDM) in Calais.

2 - OBJECTIVES

This competition aims to promote excellence, innovation, and eco-responsibility in the lace and embroidery sector, while providing a platform for young talents to showcase their creativity.

Specific goals :

- Encourage students to propose creative and innovative recycling solutions for «waste» textiles from lace and embroidery production, including scraps, end-of-rolls, defective pieces, and other unused materials such as cuttings, selvages, or defective parts.
- Raise awareness about eco-responsibility in the fields of fashion, art, and decoration by breathing new life into discarded textile remnants.

- Provide young creators with an opportunity to showcase their talents and innovative ideas by incorporating specific and unconventional materials into their creative processes.
- Familiarize future creators with the specifics of lace and embroidery production and products through an interactive and imaginative approach. The competition aims to educate students on industrial techniques for producing lace and embroidery (e.g., factory visits, professional interventions in schools) and to explore the history, origins, and diversity of these exceptional crafts.

3 – GENERAL GUIDELINES

Participation

Initially, faculty representatives will confirm their intent to have their class participate in the project, specifying the number of students involved (registration form required). Students may participate individually or as part of a group. Projects must first be validated by the faculty representative before being submitted to the FFDB.

For their participation, the students will choose an «**artist's name**» which will appear on the documents accompanying the project to preserve anonymity during selection.

Proposed categories

Students may compete in one of the following categories :

- **Fashion category**

Participants will create pieces for a clothing or accessory collection using and showcasing leftover materials from participating manufacturers.

- **Art category**

Participants can create original and unique artistic works, using and highlighting scraps of material as a medium for expression.

Digital information and interactive documents to be completed

A page dedicated to the contest on the site www.ffdb.net will be put online which will give access to:

- **Downloadable informational documents :**

- Presentation of the competition
- Regulation
- Posters
- Logos

- **Interactive documents to be completed and returned online** (access reserved for participating schools):

- **To be returned by October 31, 2025 :**

Participation form on which will be indicated the information related to the student and the «artist name» chosen for the contest.

- **To be returned before May 15, 2026 :**

Project tracking sheet specifying only the artist's name(s), the title of the project, the chosen category, the materials used other than lace and embroidery, the applied treatments, the prospects for applications in textile/fashion/accessory or in art/design...scraps of material as a medium for expression.

Material supply and conditions of use :

Materials will be provided by the participating companies :

- Either sent to the school
- Or collected on-site if classes can visit the workshops to retrieve materials directly.

All lace and embroidery materials remaining from this contest remain the exclusive property of the participating companies.

Any reproduction, adaptation, or distribution of the designs and motifs derived from these materials is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the companies concerned.

The supplied materials may only be used for educational purposes strictly within the framework of the competition.

Students may not, without the express permission of the FFDB :

- **Use the lace or embroidery for personal projects outside the scope of the competition,**
- **Disseminate or publish any creations containing these materials in a context other than that defined by the FFDB,**
- **Market or attempt to market any product derived from the supplied materials, either directly or indirectly.**

Any breach of these rules may result in disqualification from the contest and, where applicable, legal action for infringement of the intellectual property rights of the participating companies

Educational support

Workshops and factory visits may be organized at the request of faculty to inspire and motivate students by :

- Introducing them to lace and embroidery materials, techniques, and manufacturing processes.
- Providing guidance and clarification on the competition's expectations and processes.

4 – FINAL DELIVERABLES

Students must submit their «upcycled» creations in their chosen category, potentially accompanied by material samples or concepts for further development.

The submissions will be accompanied by a **presentation document of the project in A4 format** bringing together all the elements, textual and visual, necessary for the good understanding of the project and its communication (short argument, sketches, photos, range of colors, scenario...).

This document in **pdf format** and the visuals must also be sent with the project in a **USB key**.

Only the artist's name must appear on all documents and accompanying visuals.

Submissions will be disqualified if they :

- Do not predominantly use lace and embroidery products provided by the participating companies.
- Do not adhere to competition rules.
- Are missing or incorrectly completed project tracking sheets (which will have been sent online within the deadlines).
- Appear to plagiarize existing products.

5 – PROJECT SELECTION

Projects validated by faculty will be submitted to a designated location for review. The number of selected candidates will depend on the quality of submissions.

Selected participants may receive prizes («awarded laureates») or be included in the final selection without receiving a prize.

Selection criteria

Projects will be assessed anonymously by a jury of lace, embroidery, fashion, art, and design professionals.

Evaluation will focus on :

- Originality and innovation.
- Aesthetic approach.
- Eco-responsibility considerations.
- Feasibility and relevance of using lace and embroidery materials.
- Potential for series production.

6 – PRIZES

The following prizes are envisioned for each category :

- **1st Prize** : € 1,200
- **2nd Prize** : € 800
- **3rd Prize** : € 500

For group projects, the prize amount will be shared among co-creators.

The jury retains full authority over competition decisions, including modifications or cancellations due to exceptional circumstances, or deciding not to award a prize if submissions fail to meet quality standards. Awarded and non-awarded finalists may be offered internships in creative departments of participating companies.

7 - PROJECT EXHIBITION / COMMUNICATION / AWARD CEREMONY

Selected projects (awarded or not) will be exhibited at the location of the awards ceremony and may subsequently be displayed elsewhere, particularly at the Lace and Embroidery Museum in Caudry, the City of Lace and Fashion (CIDM) in Calais and an International Textile show in Paris.

Promotion will include social media campaigns (e.g., a dedicated Instagram page) to be shared by participants. Students are allowed to communicate freely about the competition and/or their project by mentioning «Metamorphosis of lace and embroidery / www.ffdb.net»

8 - PROTECTION OF WORKS

The intellectual and physical ownership of selected projects remains with their creators.

Participants authorize the FFDB and its competition partners to disseminate their works through media, exhibitions, publications, etc. Future projects developed in collaboration with industry partners will be subject to individual contracts with participants.

9 - MODIFICATIONS / SUSPENSION / CANCELLATION

In case of changes, suspension, or cancellation of the competition, the organizers and jury members cannot be held liable.

10 - PROVISIONAL TIMELINE

- * **September 2024 / March 2025** / Competition planning / Partner and school communication
- * **First half of 2025** / Competition announcement and launch
- * **Late September 2025** / Deadline for teachers to confirm participation
- * **By October 2025** / Materials provided to schools by professionals
- * **October 31, 2025** / Deadline for students to submit their individual participation form online
- * **October 2025 – March 2026** / Workshops and potential class visits to manufacturers
- * **May 15, 2026** / Submission deadline for creations and online sending of their tracking sheet
- * **End of May beginning of June 2026** / Winner selection
- * **End of June 2026** / Award ceremony
- * **From July 2026** / Project exhibitions

11 - CONTACTS

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