The hat collection

UTE PATEL-MISSFELDT

BY SUSANNE SCHEEPERS

Since 1998, her hat event Mut zum Hut, with approximately 15,000 hats on display, has been the world's largest selling venue for headwear. Milliners and hat designers from all over the world get to meet each other at this event, which takes place in the beautiful location of Neuburg a.d. Donau in Germany, always during the last weekend of September.

We asked her how did her love affair with hats begin?

"I always wear hats! Just not in bed or inside the house! When I was a little girl it was normal to wear hats every day. I was two years old when I wore my first hat with a ribbon underneath my chin as this was the custom in the countryside where I was living in Northern Germany. We never left the house without a hat, gloves and a matching bag and my mother and her sister were the nicest looking women in our town!

The first hat I bought for myself was a big white felt hat which was not so practical in the windy conditions in Northern Germany. Needless to say,

I don't have that hat anymore! Most hats I buy, of course, at Mut zum Hut, the hat event I initiated and organise together with my daughter Isabel. I buy them mostly from my beloved Dutch milliners! I also buy hats online as I keep discovering new milliners on the web. They need our support, particularly in these days. The last hat I actually bought online was from an English milliner living in Spain. It is a very comfortable straw hat which I wear while working in the garden. Oh, and I also bought a great white vintage

Here you can see the access

All rooms are painted by me and

decorated with silk painting

to the room of shoe - bags,

dresses and hat boxes

Hat by Susanne Scheepers



fur hat at a flea market which is still in its original Jugendstil hat box from Hut Breitner in Munich.

As I have more than 200 hats, I do not always keep them all for myself. I give away hats sometimes, especially to someone who does not own a hat yet, or I swap with my close friends and family. With so many hats, it is a great advantage to live in Schloss Grunau in Neuburg an der Donau as the ceilings here in the castle are 4.80m high and I can stack all my hat boxes. Twice a year my daughter Isabel and I sort the collection by season and we pack and label all the hats and boxes that we store. The hats that come out of storage to be worn that season are all displayed on top of a large cabinet on a board with holes and sticks with different heights that I can rearrange if needed. I use a ladder to climb up to get the one I want to wear that day!

One thing that always strikes me is that there are still so many milliners out there who make and want to sell their hats, but they do not wear hats themselves. I don't understand that, especially as

I initiated Mut zum Hut over 20 years ago to support milliners and their profession so they would have a place to sell their creations. They all want to sell but don't wear their own hats. I say wear your hats!"

MORE INFORMATION

www.mutzumhut.de www.ute-patel-missfeldt.de





INSPIRATION

Hat by



Hat by Anna Mikhaylova

Hat by Irene van Vugt





Hat by Sardaroff

The internationally

renowned textile artist Ute

paints silk; she also designs

Patel-Missfeldt not only

clothes and porcelain.

She has authored more

than 42 specialised books,

illustrated novels and poetry.

Irene van Vugt





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