

Anik See

(Anik See is a Canadian writer, podcast editor and independent radio documentary producer based in Amsterdam.)

The rustling of tissue paper. The smoothness of silk. The way a slip still held the shape of a woman's waist. These are the tangible impressions that gripped Ellen Korth's attention and inspired her to create a tactile book and exhibition called *The Fabric of Time*. For over a year now, Ellen has been hunting for underclothing from eras long past - pettiskirts, nightshirts, chemises and frocks. At Twickel, an estate in the eastern part of the Netherlands, she discovered room after unoccupied room filled with linens and clothing no longer worn, practically crackling under their neatly starched creases. It reminded Ellen of her childhood and of her mother, who loved the meditative practice of ironing and darning underclothes and bed linens. Inspired by that memory, Ellen spent several months unpacking and photographing undergarments in the castle, using a lightbox to give them dimension; backlit, every tear, weakness or repair in the fabric is visible and the story behind it begins to take shape.

The Fabric of Time is an intimate portrayal of these precious articles of underclothing (and the ghosts of their former owners that seem to still cling to them). Their loveliness and fragility are made even more apparent through the nearly translucent washi paper on which they're printed, and the book's hand-stitched binding. The book and some photographic prints - along with some of the articles of clothing themselves - will be displayed in Twickel's orangerie: translucent, life-sized prints of underclothes floating in the air as though occupied by spirits; shirts from generations past behind glass on a wall; the book laid out in glass cases like priceless adornments.