



Wool, Lights, Action!

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Partner: Navetta Galleria and Kairan Tapuli Sheep Farm

This project draws inspiration from the site visits of Navetta Galleria in Äkäslompola and the Kairan Tapuli farm, in which artist Dorsa Abolfazli created a series of wool-based characters to produce a stop-motion animation, inspired by the cultural context of Lapland, local northern lights stories, Arctic fauna, local craft techniques and sustainable values experienced as part of the visits to Navetta Galleria and Kairan Tapuli Sheep Farm.

Dorsa Abolfazli made a reel video for the VillaInno project's Instagram account. It highlights

the importance of sustainability in art and design, focusing on wool as the primary material (Figure 1). An inspiring moment for Dorsa came after VillaInno paid a visit to the Kairan Tapuli farm, where we all became familiar with the various breeds of sheep, the ways they were cared for, and the harmonious and sustainable lifestyle shared between farm owner Tiina and her animals. Other elements of life in Lapland were interpreted and incorporated into the final animation: reindeer in the wild, the story of the fox and the creation of the Northern lights, the red houses, and the baby sheep at Kairan Tapuli (Figure 2).

The process included collaborative workshops: Tonttula; Äkäslompola, Rovaniemi; site visits to farms: Kairan Tapuli; and exploration of materials and techniques within the VillaInno project. The VillaInno project contributed technical advice, materials, and learning opportunities. The student



◀◀◀ **FIGURE 1.** Screenshot from the reel video for the Instagram account of Villainno project made by Abolfazli. Photograph: Dorsa Abolfazli, 2025.

◀◀ **FIGURE 2.** Elements of life in Lapland were interpreted and incorporated into the final animation: a reindeer, red houses, and sheep. Photograph: Dorsa Abolfazli, 2025.

◀ **FIGURE 3.** Sheep, reindeer, and fox characters. Photograph: Fabiola Hernández Cervantes, 2025.

Villainno bridges tradition and modernity, rural knowledge and contemporary design, individual expression and collective sustainability goals, and offers a meaningful way to merge personal reflection with practical action. - Abolfazli, 2025, p. 36

Meeting Lea Kaulanen, the owner of Navetta Gallery, was a particularly inspiring experience. Her commitment to using recycled and natural resources was reflected in every piece she had crafted. Her collection of woollen handicrafts, felted artworks, and characterful dolls made from reused materials represents stories of care, imagination, and environmental consciousness. I was deeply moved by how she gave discarded materials a second life, transforming them into expressive figures with personality and depth. This visit sparked an idea in my mind—to create woollen characters myself, not just as an artistic choice, but as a meaningful way to connect sustainability with storytelling. - Abolfazli, 2025, p. 37

experimented on her own, following an intuitive process to build the characters, shoot the frames, create musicalisation and produce the final animation. The video uses stop-motion animation to show the characters' movement by combining multiple photos with music and storytelling. The animation is rooted in Lapland's cultural and ecological context.

Materials and techniques

The materials used for the felting were the following:

1. Carded wool from Pirtin Kehräamo in diverse colours.
2. Wool fabric.
3. Wire, pliers, needles, cardboard, thread, scissors.
4. LED lights, her phone camera, and an app called StopMotion.
5. A felting foam-pad.

The characters were created using wire, shaped into the skeletons of the animals, wrapped with carded wool, layering the body shapes (Figure 3). For the edition, the artist used a program called InShot. The artist used about 270 frames to create this animation, which was shared on her Instagram account as a collaborative reel with the Villainno Instagram account.

The use of the technique extends the application of wool-based art and craft into technology and new media contexts; local wool is a sustainable medium for creating figures and scenes for animation.

References

- Abolfazli, D. (2025). *From wool to action: Reviving traditional practices for sustainable futures*. [Master's thesis, University of Lapland]. Lauda. <https://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2025060460739>