

# Unn Sønju (born in 1938)

Stillhetens hav [The Sea of Tranquillity] (2000–2005)

Tapestry, approx. 140 x 100 cm

Clara Holsts hus, P46

Unn Sønju says about this work: “The Sea of Tranquillity” is a beautiful, poetic name for a dead dusty area on the moon. This tapestry consists of 1030 parts, each measuring 10 cm x 10 cm in size, which are now spread in different public and private collections. “Stillhetens hav” was never meant to be exhibited as a whole. The idea was, and still is, that each individual part will infinitely shine and signal to its fellows across time and space from private and public “stations”.

We get to experience 40 of these parts at P46. They have been placed in a grid pattern and hang separate from each other, a little distance from the wall. The fragments are all different, but all woven in the same colour palette. They consist of light and black areas, with shining pieces woven in. In some places, there are holes in the different parts so that one can catch a glimpse of the white wall through the textiles.

In her works, Sønju experiments with the traditional tapestry technique and breaks the conventional rules for which materials are considered appropriate in a tapestry. She has woven the fragments using silver and black threads and included pieces of old CDs in the weave. She explains that she wanted to create an ‘enormous and glittering water surface which hides the depth of the ocean’.

Unn Sønju is a professor of tapestry and a celebrated Norwegian textile artist, sketcher and graphic artist. She has carried out many decorative assignments, and her artworks have been purchased by several museums and collections. OsloMet owns five of her works: three large textile works and two graphic works.

Sønju studied art in the UK and tapestry at the Women's Industrial School in Oslo from 1960 until 1962. This institution was one of the forerunners of OsloMet.