



ENTGEN LUYTEN

Veil of the Low Countries

Elegance in Lace

The Veil is a tribute to the victims of the witch trials in the former Netherlands. Like a veil that envelops the landscape, a veil covers the past. Beneath this veil lie the stories of women, men, and children once accused, persecuted, and often erased from collective memory. This work aims to delicately lift this veil, not to rewrite history, but to make room for remembrance, recognition, and humanity. Through words and threads, forgotten names are reborn.

The veil is knitted from linen, a material intimately linked to the history of the Low Countries. For centuries, linen, lace, and textiles were inseparable from the lives of women.

The half-moon shape evokes the fine line between the visible and the invisible, between memory and oblivion. Crosses are incorporated into a circle within the lace, inspired by an ancient Faroese lace pattern. These crosses reference the simple symbols that illiterate people once used to sign their names. Many victims of witch trials signed their confessions with such a cross, often after it had been broken by torture.

The veil is named after Entgen Luyten, a widow from Limbricht accused of witchcraft in 1674. Like so many other victims, her voice has disappeared from history.



YARN

Venne BIO 100% Linen 200 g
Nel 16/2 nr. 1-7100 Crème

This fine, high-quality linen yarn is made from organically grown flax and is renowned for its strength, yarn regularity, and natural appearance.

+ a remnant of black thread

NEEDLES

4 mm (US 6) knitting needles, size 4 (G/6)
crochet hook

SAMPLE

Gauge is less important for this project. After knitting, the veil is moistened and stretched to the desired size.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL**DIMENSIONS**

Approximately 230 cm wide along the black border and approximately 54 cm high, measured from the middle of the nape of the neck.



METHOD





SETTING UP

Cast on 63 stitches using 4 mm circular needles.

Knit 5 stitches, place marker A.

Knit 5 stitches, place marker B.

Knit 43 stitches (the pattern section), place marker C.

Knit 5 stitches, place marker D.

Knit the last 5 stitches.

Knit back and forth in garter stitch with 1 edge stitch: slip the last stitch onto the needle purlwise with the yarn in front; knit the first stitch.

Increase simultaneously:

- 1 stitch after marker A on each round
- 1 stitch before marker B on all odd-numbered rows
- 1 stitch after marker C on every odd row
- 1 stitch before marker D on each round

To increase the number of stitches, make a yarn over. On the next row, knit the yarn over to the right to create a hole. Continue increasing until you have 397 stitches on the needle (see next section).

Knit 3 ribs after casting on, then begin the pattern in the center panel.





MOTIF ON THE CENTRAL PANEL

Follow the chart and work 2 consecutive repeats over the 43 stitches of the center panel. Only the odd-numbered rows are shown. Work the even-numbered rows in garter stitch. Remember to increase at markers D and A on the even-numbered rows.

Repeat the 18 rows of the pattern once more and finish with 3 ribs.

You have now increased a total of 55 stitches on each side of the 43 stitches on each odd-numbered row and 110 stitches on each outer side of all rows = $177 + 43 + 177 = 397$ stitches on the needle. Stop all increases now.

Knit the lace pattern across all stitches: knit 5 stitches in garter stitch, then (knit 2 together, yarn over) to the last 6 stitches in garter stitch. Knit the next row, working all stitches in knit stitch.

Knit 3 ribs over all stitches.



BORDER

Now begin the pattern on all stitches. Knit 17 stitches in garter stitch, knit the 20 stitches of the pattern 18 times (circled in red on the chart), knit 20 stitches in garter stitch.

Knit 3 ribs.

Cast off the stitches loosely as follows: cast off 4 stitches, make a yarn over on the right needle, cast off the yarn over. Repeat this process until all stitches have been cast off.

Crochet a row of half single crochet stitches around the top and small side seams with black yarn. Leave enough yarn for the edge to close neatly.



BLOCKING

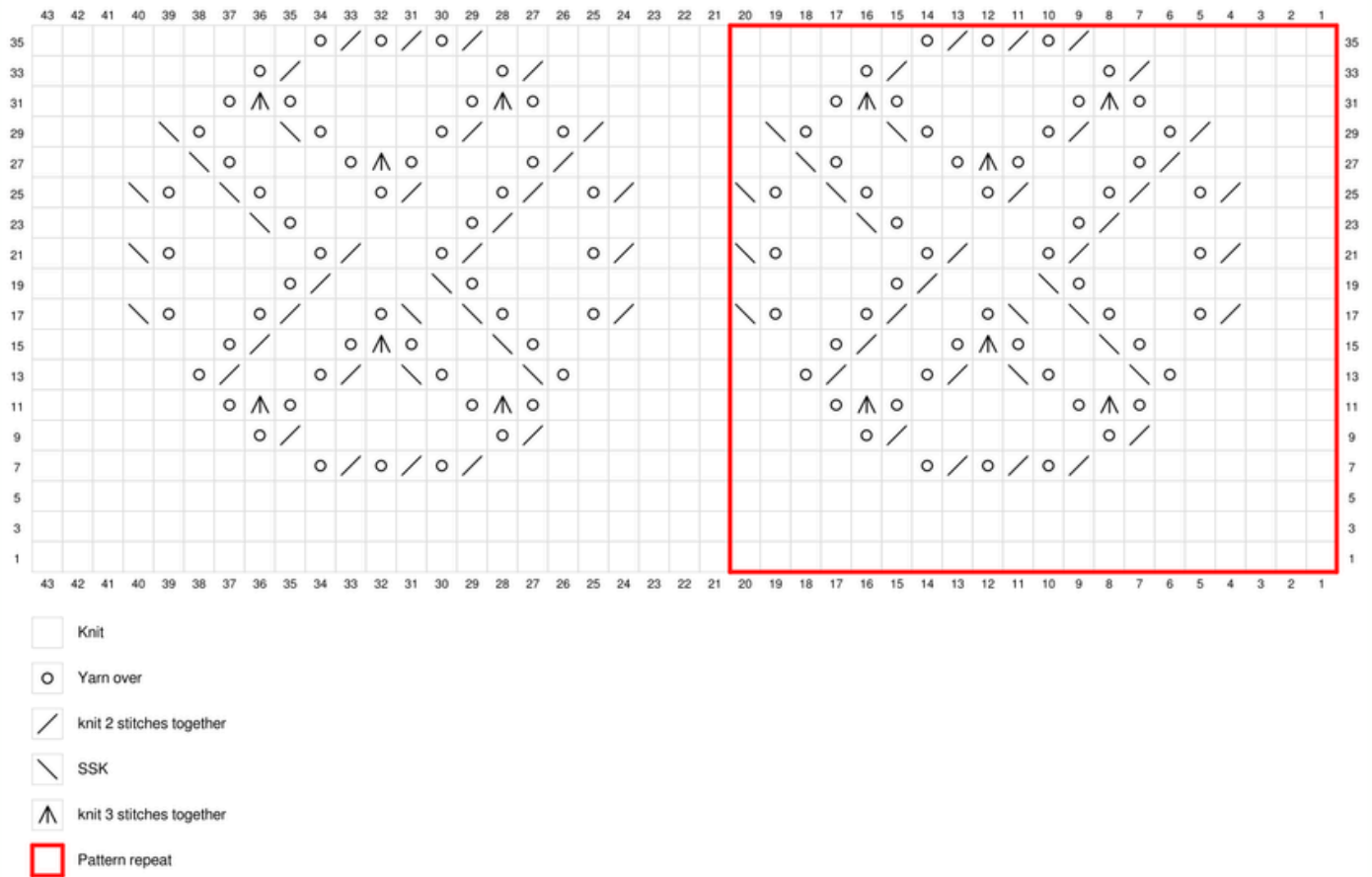
Soak the veil in lukewarm water until it is completely wet. Wring out the veil and roll it up in a towel. Then stretch it over foam tiles until you reach the desired size.

Place pins along the outer edges and sides of the center panel. Dampen the piece with a water spray if it dries too quickly during stretching.

Allow the veil to dry completely. Carefully remove the pins.



CHART



SYMBOLISM



Magical Crafts

The veil is shaped like a half-moon. This symbolizes feminine power, change, and the connection between the visible and the invisible. In many spiritual traditions, the half-moon is seen as a passage between worlds: a symbol of transition, remembrance, and revelation.

The openwork crosses of the lace evoke the simple symbols with which illiterate people once signed documents. They remind us of the many barely audible voices that must not be forgotten.

Linen was chosen for this design, a material deeply rooted in the history of the ancient Netherlands. Its light and transparent structure reinforces the image of mist and veils, while also evoking a rich artisanal tradition and the manual labor of women.

A black border of mourning runs along the top edge. It symbolizes farewell, respect, and remembrance. Like a dark horizon line between heaven and earth, this border marks the boundary between past and present, between visibility and oblivion. Thus, the veil becomes not only a sign of loss, but also of recognition and imperishable memory.

In memory of Entgen Luyten

The Veil of the Low Countries is dedicated to Entgen, a widow from Limbricht, in what is now Dutch Limburg. In 1674, she was accused of witchcraft. These were the last decades in which such accusations could still lead to a death sentence, even though doubts about the veracity of witchcraft trials were already spreading in many parts of Europe.

Little is known about Entgen's life. Like so many other women of her time, she only appears in historical records when she is accused. Yet behind these few documents lies a human being: a woman who lived, worked, loved, and grew old within her community.

For centuries, only a few archival documents remained of Entgen. Her voice was silenced, her face erased from memory. This veil bears her name to break that oblivion. Not only as a tribute to Entgen herself, but also to the many other victims of witch persecution whose stories have remained hidden beneath the veil of history.

Resistance wires

Entgen Luyten's veil is part of MICCA, a textile collection paying tribute to the many victims of witch persecution. In Europe alone, more than 100,000 people accused of witchcraft perished at the stake.

MICCA uses textiles to bring to life the stories of victims of witch persecution. Each design is inspired by a historical figure and a meticulously documented story. Through knitting, weaving, crocheting, embroidery, and spinning, names threatened with oblivion for centuries find their place in collective memory.

Textiles are much more than just a craft. Throughout history, women have passed on their knowledge, memories, and experiences through thread and fabric. MICCA is part of this tradition. Each stitch weaves a link between past and present, between persecuted women and those who carry on their story today.

A tribute to thousands of "witches"

My work is part of a broader tradition where textiles are both memory and resistance. Not verbal resistance, but resistance imbued with attention, care, and perseverance. Against oblivion. Against the disappearance of names from history. Against the idea that these stories no longer need to be told.

I freely share my patterns and stories so that everyone can contribute to this chain of remembrance. You can find my creations on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft and at www.micca-witchcraft.be. You can also download my e-book there, in which I recount the reality of witch persecution in an original and accessible way.



Colophon

Design, photos, and text: Mieke Van Damme, vandammemieke@proximus.be. All designs remain the property of Mieke Van Damme and are intended for personal, non-commercial use. This design is free. Resale is prohibited, but feel free to share it. A link to my website www.micca-witchcraft.be would be greatly appreciated. Happy crafting!

Site web : www.micca-witchcraft.be

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