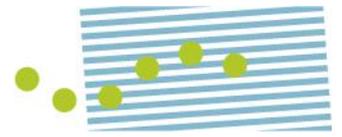


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Antje Schiffers: »Vechte goods«, 2011–2021

The ten-year art project »Vechte goods« by Antje Schiffer (*1967, Heiligendorf near Wolfsburg) began in April 2011 in the village Ohne. In collaboration with the village population, the cultivation of flax was initiated from which »Ohne's Linnen« will be produced in the year 2012. With the active participation of Ohne's citizens 150 kg linseed was planted on almost a hectare of land. Even though linseed can be harvested after 100 days, the retting, breaking, hackling and spinning takes so much time that the weaving and trading can not start until 2012. The financial management of the trade is done at the local tavern in a form agreed by the parties. A »trust fund« is possible as well as forms of barter. Until the middle of last century, the linen industry with its three local dealers was part of the daily life in Ohne.

Until 2021, further projects will take place in other parts of the county such as Nordhorn and Engden, based on the resources of the region and its population. Together with those who contribute their knowledge and skills, the artist decides what will be produced. It is important that the region can identify with the product. For ten years Antje Schiffer thus becomes the driving force for the production and trade of artistic products in the region. She initiates processes that bring together different people and their knowledge. The product that comes to life says something about the people, their daily life and their traditions, it tells of the transformation of production and distribution of goods, changes in working conditions and the change of regional resources. At the opening of »raumsichten« in May 2012, the last remaining textile



factory in Schüttorf ROFA will produce a line of opulently embroidered workwear designed by Antje Schiffer. The design is based on today's agricultural products in the region Bentheim - corn, potatoes, cereals and forage.