



Loro Piana announces the winners of the Knit Design Award 2026
Knitting Light – Craft on the Evolution of Colour

Milan, May 14, 2026

Loro Piana is pleased to announce that the winner of the 10th edition of the Knit Design Award is The Swedish School of Textile with students Viola Schmidt and Halla Lilja Ármannsdóttir. Their vision and exploration of this year's theme, *Knitting Light – Craft on the Evolution of Colour*, demonstrate a unique ability to interpret the brief, innovate knitwear with exceptional craftsmanship, and tell a compelling story.

The school's projects were presented to the jury on May 13th, with the winners officially announced on May 14th during an event at Galleria Rossana Orlandi in Milan, under the patronage of Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana.

The winners received the prestigious Loro Piana Knit Design Award 2026, which includes a trophy, a scholarship, and a job experience at the *Maison*. Additionally, the winners will have the opportunity to complete their design project in Loro Piana's long-established yarn and knitwear workshops in Piedmont, working alongside artisans who will share their expertise and mastery. The finished piece will be showcased at the Loro Piana booth at Pitti Filati, the leading trade event for yarns in the knitting sector, to be held in Florence 24-26 of June.

Knitting Light – Craft on the Evolution of Colour explores the house's strong sense of colour, highlighting a kaleidoscope of vibrant nuances, through a combination of legacy, innovation, and excellence. Drawing on the perception of colour, the students were invited to balance legacy and novelty by working with yarns made from the world's finest cashmere, blended with innovative ones to achieve depth and complexity, also through plays of light. By exploring the transformative power of technology to enhance colour, the aim was to create a convertible garment or silhouette that represents and completes the transformation.

This year's edition marks the 10th anniversary of this prestigious and ever-evolving annual accolade, created to inspire creativity by promoting young designers while sharing the *Maison's* knitwear expertise and *savoir-faire*.

The jury comprises Loro Piana representatives, including CEO Frédéric Arnault as President, along with prominent figures such as Elvira Grimaldi of CHRO; Alessandra Varianini, Product Development & Collection Merchandising Director, and Lucia De Cet, Head of Yarns R&D; Edward Buchanan, Creative Director and Cultural Advocate; Anna Dello Russo, Creative Consultant, fashion stylist and former editor for Vogue Japan; Sara Sozzani Maino, Creative Director Fondazione Sozzani and International New Talent and Brands Ambassador Camera Nazionale della Moda Italiana; Nick Vinson, Editor and Creative Director; Leaf Greener, Creative consultant, fashion editor and fashion critic; Satoshi Kuwata, Founder & Creative Director of "SETCHU"; and Rossana Orlandi, Founder & Creative Director of Galleria Rossana Orlandi.

About the winning project

School: The Swedish School of Textiles

Project title: Glitsky – Mother of Pearl

Students: Halla Lilja Ármannsdóttir and Viola Schmidt

Professor: Lara Alvarez

Project description: This project draws inspiration from a phenomenon in which sunlight strikes crystallised clouds, transforming them into iridescent, mesmerising displays of colour. This vision is translated into cashmere and speciality yarns, brought to life in a transformable, modular garment. Diamond motifs are attached and detached by a linking system that is integrated into the knitted shapes. The technique focuses on transformability and light reflection as seen through specific perspectives and arrangements. The outfit combines a strong structural upper layer focused on colour exploration, while the underlay represents the reflecting light.



- **ÁRMANNSDÓTTIR:** Halla Lilja Ármannsdóttir is an artist whose practice explores the sculptural and emotional potential of knitted textiles. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Fashion Textiles Knit from the London College of Fashion in 2021 and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in Textile Design at the Swedish School of Textiles. For her, knitting is more than a technique; she views it as a conversation with time, where soft wool meets rigid horsehair, and mechanical precision melds with human touch. Her work has been shown internationally, most recently in the solo exhibition “She is I – The Knitting Experience” (Textile Museum of Iceland, 2025) and as a part of New York Textile Month (2025) in the curated exhibition “Nordic Textile Takeover” at Scandinavian House.
- **SCHMIDT:** Viola Schmidt is a creative and enthusiastic master's student in textiles at the Swedish School of Textiles. She is dedicated to developing innovative knitwear solutions, aiming to create luxurious knitted pieces that elevate the craft of knitting by pushing the boundaries of technique. Through her work, she seeks to inspire others to appreciate their textile surroundings by forming emotional connections through storytelling.

About Loro Piana Knit Design Award

The Loro Piana Knit Design Award celebrates talented students from leading fashion design schools around the world with an extraordinary passion for knitwear. The initiative, first launched in 2016, is an international competition that aims to give emerging talents the chance to showcase their unique creative expressions on some of Loro Piana's iconic yarns. It aims to preserve and enhance savoir-faire while passing on a passion for excellence to the next generations. It is also a key project to encourage and discover new creative talents and give them the support to fulfil their passion.

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Loro Piana is the symbol of Italian excellence, and its collections embody a distinctive style characterised by understated elegance. Since its foundation, Loro Piana has constantly pursued and redefined the goal of offering sublime beauty and authenticity to a discerning global clientele, while placing equal importance on service quality.