

(News No.7) Knot Cushion

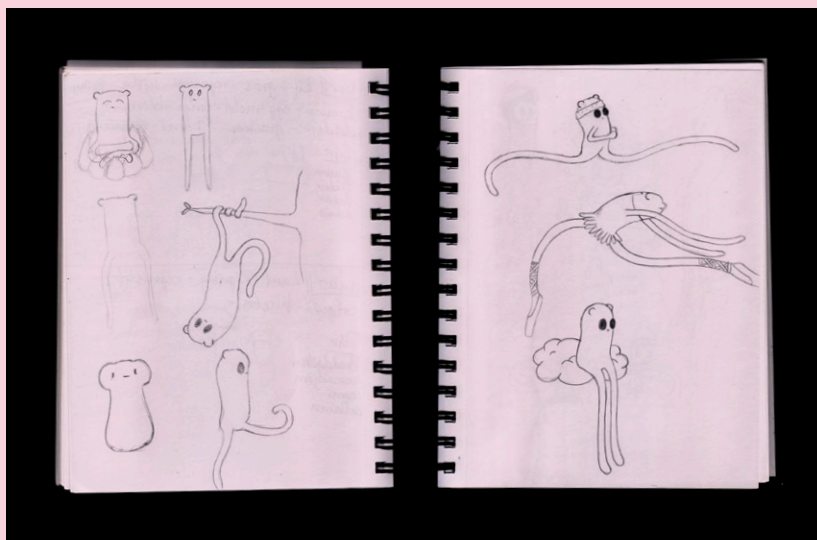
Designed by Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir

(News No.8)









The initial sketches of what was to become 'Knot' cushion shows a teddy bear. It was when the legs were tied together that the idea of a cushion was born.

*Knot cushion — an accessory that puts a smile on your face.*

Strictly speaking no one can say exactly why something becomes a design classic. Numerous factors play their part, but there is only one characteristic that unites all classic design items: when we have seen them we can't forget them.

At the present we can only speculate as to whether Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir's *Knot* cushion will become a classic. But the Icelandic designer's creation belongs to the exclusive group of products that remain in one's memory. The design is so strong that it can live its own life independent of the actual product of which it forms a part. This is true of Alvar Aalto's *Savoy* vase and it may very well become true of the *Knot* cushion too.

"I have always been attracted to strange and unique things," Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir explains as she talks about how she developed the idea of *Knot*.

"I try to create unusual designs; products that are unpredictable and that make people curious."

But there was a long way to go when she started experimenting with tubular knitting on a machine

some five years ago. She was really looking for an efficient way of manufacturing the legs of a teddy bear rather than crocheting them by hand. But she ended up with a knot-like cushion and where exactly the inspiration came from she has wondered about herself:

"As a child I was in the scouts," she explains, "and I was very good at doing knots."

#### *Instant classic*

Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir's colourful cushion can brighten up almost any living room, waiting room or office. When Design House Stockholm's managing director Anders Färdig describes the principal qualities of the cushion he compares the *Knot* cushion with Harri Koskinen's modern classic *Block Lamp*:

"When the *Block Lamp* was presented for the first time, there were lots of people who wondered whether it could be regarded as a lamp at all. Everyone just smiled and the *Knot* cushion brought forth a similar reaction."

*Daniel Golling*



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