

RITIN SPRING 2023 WEBINAR

Made In USA Apparel: What is the Future?



MODERATOR MICHAEL MCKELDON WOODY is CEO of Trans-Tex LLC, a textile company based in Cranston, RI. He is currently chair of the Rhode Island Textile Innovation Network ([RITIN.org](https://ritin.org)), past president of the Narrow Fabrics Institute (NFI), a division of the Advanced Textile Association (ATA), and a former member of the governor's Manufacturing Advisory Council.

In 2017, his book *American Dragon: Winning the Global Manufacturing War Using the Universal Principles of Fewer, Faster, and Finer* was named a finalist for Business and Economics Book of the Year by Foreword Indies.



PANELIST KARL ASPELUND is Department Chair and Associate Professor at URI's Dept. of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design, and Visiting Associate Professor in Ethnology at the University of Iceland. He completed a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Material Culture at Boston University in 2011. On the 100-Year-Starship research team, he has investigated the needs and constraints of textiles for long-duration spaceflight, leading to a focus on circular economies of textiles on Earth.

Karl has authored three textbooks on design and design theory.



PANELIST WILLY DECONTOIS is a Rhode Island based designer focusing on product and print. He is currently working on Gif-O-Graf, an all-in-one animation machine, and Crafted With Pride 2023. Previously he was with Boston-based design consultancy Continuum creating new products for clients spanning industries from healthcare to audio equipment.

Willy was lucky to spend his formative years working at the storied "Lynn Vintage Warehouse"—an experience that inspired his obsession with design, quality garments, and local manufacturing.



PANELIST ALEX GOULET is a sportswear historian and research consultant who has worked with well known companies like Champion, Hanes, New Balance, Nike, Jordan Brand, adidas, and Reebok. He is the author of several books covering the brand histories of Champion and Hanes as well as Crafted With Pride 2023, an overview of domestic apparel manufacturers.

Over the course of a decade in the vintage clothing business, Alex gained firsthand knowledge of the fashion business traveling around the world to source apparel. He has a passion for Made in USA clothing, both vintage and modern.



Rhode Island-born **PANELIST CLAUDIA MIDDENDORF** is a designer, quilter, traveler and founder of *Mathilde*, a manufacturer of contemporary, soft-washed linen quilts. From her studio in a renovated mill building that overlooks the Blackstone River, Claudia designs and produces exquisite home furnishings that are naturally sustainable. Her textiles have been featured in Martha Stewart Living, New England Home, Quiltfolk and Town & Country.

Mathilde heirloom quilts are sold online at mathildehome.com. You can also find Mathilde at in-person events such as Field+Supply, West Coast Craft and the RISD Craft Fair.