

# Öjbro Vantfabrik

## Pattern # Gotland Öjbro Vantfabrik

Gotland is Sweden's largest Island and the home of the "Gutes". occupied since prehistory and home to the Gotland pony called "Gotlands russ". Wild horses has lived in the forest regions of the island of Gotland from time immemorial. The Gotland russ is an old Swedish pony breed. Gotland ponies are claimed to descend from Tarpan that lived on the small island of Gotland after the last ice age. The Gotland pony is the only breed of pony native to Sweden.



Their history is mysterious and fascinating. Discoveries from the stone age show that that horses have been present on Gotland for 5000 years and perhaps longer... Thanks to decisive intervention on the part of the local inhabitants, Sweden's most primordial horses still live as they have for thousands of years on the wooded moors of Gotland. Locally called "skogsbagg" in Swedish.

Owner and designer Åse Öjbro has created wearable mitten art (Åse was also an artist of paints and palettes for over 20 years before deciding to express her art in wool.) She has created this innovative "equine design" pattern on the back of the mitten hand showing the Gotland russ ponies "skogsbagg" in a forest setting. And with the 2 color cuff at the wrist. The inside palm has an alternating nail dot pattern.

I was so touched once I saw the adorable horses and how they lived in the wild on the Island. Nowadays semi-feral heard is kept in the 650 acre ( 2,6 km<sup>2</sup>) enclosed area of Lojsta moor where the "skogsbaggarna" live all year around.. in the genuine wilderness...

I remember when I visited Gotland as a child, road the ponies and listened to the island folk stories.

I hope to capture the feeling of connectedness to our distant past of this strong and hardy "skogsbagg" in this pattern of the design.



*Hur länge det har stickats vantar i norden vet man inte men det finns bevarat vantfragment ända sen 1200-talet.*

*\* Denna vante är inspirerad av Russen på Lojsta hed på Gotland och sedan färgsatt i naturens färger.*

*Öjbro vantfabrik brinner för att föra våra olika sticktraditioner vidare*

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