Sustainability statement

Our daily effort to strive for a better world
A vision for beauty

Arte was born out of a vision for beauty. As a designer, manufacturer and distributor of high-end wallcoverings, Arte strives to instil craftsmanship and quality in every area of its activities. Its pure aesthetics – sometimes exuberant, sometimes modest – make Arte’s wallcoverings a versatile element for creating a unique atmosphere in residential and public spaces, as well as in hospitality settings.

A sustainable combination of design, emotion, people and the environment

As an international player in the wallcoverings market, Arte shows off its edgy, extravagant, classic or exclusive look all over the world, but also knows that you can only truly shine if the ‘inside’ is clean too. Since its foundation in 1981, Arte has launched initiatives in various areas to ensure that the story behind its wallcoverings is as pristine as they look on the wall.

In an ever-evolving world with a future that at times looks very promising, yet at other times can also be highly uncertain, Arte takes its social responsibility seriously. Day in, day out, it strives for a sustainable combination of design, emotion, people and the environment. It deploys its technological skills and inventiveness to ensure that your interior is both dazzling and contemporary.
A clean product

Arte’s wallcoverings are known for their inspiring colours and intriguing patterns. These designs are the result of various printing and production techniques that exclusively use water-based ink. This means that no toxic and environmentally harmful solvents are used, either to produce inks or to clean the materials. In addition, Arte steers clear of all heavy metals and cadmium-based stabilisers, both in-house and when working with carefully selected suppliers.

Arte also continuously builds on its great strength: its blend of materials. A large proportion of its collections is based on natural materials such as water hyacinths, banana leaves, cotton, mica, silk, wool, jute, shells, grasses, etc. These are all raw materials from nature that combine a refined finish with a clean conscience.

Arte’s range also includes vinyl wallcoverings. Thanks to its wear-resistant properties, this strong material has an average lifetime of 10 to 15 years. As a result, it is less likely to require replacement. Vinyl thus becomes a durable and valuable solution for wall decoration. This view is confirmed by Arte’s vinyl partners, who can present all the required product certificates.

Finally, when purchasing all of its backing materials (paper and non-woven), only the best is good enough for Arte. Following a critical screening, years ago Arte decided to join forces with FSC-certified partners. This guarantees that the wood used for making paper and non-woven is sourced from sustainably managed forests.

Arte’s many efforts have been rewarded with several certificates, such as the CE label, which guarantees the products comply with the European safety and environmental standards, and the IGI Quality Mark, which is issued by the sector’s self-regulating body that strictly monitors the activities of its members. Another example is the label indicating emission levels to inform customers about the amount of harmful substances emitted by a product. In this regard, Arte earned top marks and was awarded the A+ label. And finally, Arte also complies with the European REACH regulations on the registration and use of chemical substances.
Arte's production site has its own waste and recycling unit, where the residues from the production process are sorted and subsequently collected by approved companies. The latter process the waste in the correct manner to ensure a minimal environmental impact.

In any case, surpluses and waste are kept to a minimum. The residual ink lost or left over during printing is collected and reused, for example. In addition, thanks to an innovative method, hardly any non-woven backing material goes to waste.

It goes without saying that Arte is also very conscious of its energy consumption. This includes purchasing green electricity and gas from certified European sustainable sources, and installing LED lighting in the production halls, warehouses and offices. In addition to this, Arte also tries to reduce its consumption where possible. A minor measure with an extremely positive influence in this respect is switching off the drying ovens and other machinery on the Arte production line once the production of a batch has ended. As a result, in between batches and at the end of the work day, no energy is wasted unnecessarily.

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Arte also has its own wastewater pre-treatment installation, a physico-chemical purification system that filters and purifies the water used on site. This, in combination with the water-based inks, also keeps the company's impact on the environment to a minimum.
As a manufacturer and distributor, logistics are a key part of Arte’s daily operations. It goes without saying that in this area too, Arte analyses where improvements and green measures can be introduced. The cardboard packaging used consists of more than 70% recycled material and is entirely recyclable. One of the measures that have already been implemented is to match the size of cardboard packaging to the size of the product to ensure it contains less air. This results in more efficient loading of transport vehicles, shorter transport lines and logically also in a reduction of Arte’s CO2 impact.

For the transport of its wallcoverings, Arte endeavours to work with logistics partners whose vehicles meet the Euro VI standard. At present, Arte is proud to announce that no less than 80% of the vehicles meet this requirement. In the years ahead, Arte aims to further increase this percentage together with its partners.

As for the use of bicycles, public transport, electric vehicles or carpooling by its employees, Arte is quite satisfied. Many employees choose to leave their cars at home and commute using alternative means of transport. Arte and its employees are working to increase this even further in the coming years.
Clean in-house

At the Arte offices in Zonhoven, only FSC-certified (Forest Stewardship Council) paper is used for printing. This paper is sourced exclusively from sustainably managed forests. Also most of the promotional materials, such as brochures and sample cards, but also the collection books, are printed on FSC paper.

Discarded paper and cardboard is neatly sorted. The same goes for residual waste and PMD waste (plastic bottles, metal packaging and drinking cartons). Moreover, the company’s premises are always cleaned using biodegradable products.

Arte has also extended sustainability efforts into the kitchen. Instead of coffee capsules or pads, it uses freshly ground coffee beans. Employees can drink water from the tap, from the dispenser or from a glass bottle. Not only the bottles, but the glasses and cups too are washable and reusable. No polluting plastic cups or forks can be found in the cabinets of the Arte kitchen.

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Clean socially

Working towards a liveable planet for the future also means taking account of its human inhabitants. In its change process, Arte has developed a set of key measures that focus on both the integrity and the quality of life of people.

In all aspects of its day-to-day business, Arte acts according to the rules of common sense and good conscience. This means adopting a conscientious approach in which transparency, legality and honesty take centre stage. Thus Arte can continue to grow as a successful company, whilst respecting the well-being of other parties.

After all, behind the name of a company or product are the people who work hard every day to keep the business up and running. Arte respects everyone’s individuality by never losing sight of the universal human rights. It does not discriminate between employees and customers/suppliers on the basis of gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political views or any other reason. For example, this vision is reflected in the composition of the workforce, half of which is female. In addition, many different nationalities are part of the large Arte family. Furthermore, Arte recognises its employees (both internally and externally) by not forcing them to work. It also excludes any form of child labour, has adopted respectable working hours and salaries, and respects the principle of freedom of association in trade unions.

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Beauty with peace of mind

As an important player in the world of interior design, Arte also keeps track of what is happening outside of its business, and plays its part as a modern and innovative company. Arte’s efforts on multiple fronts ensure that its wallcoverings have more to offer than merely high-quality decoration. It is a company with a heart for beauty, and you can rest assured that at the heart of your Arte product, there is beauty too.

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