

# Öjbro Vantfabrik

## Pattern # Fästfolk

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An engagement is a confession that a relationship is heading towards marriage or a registered partnership. After one partner has proposed to the other, and the other has answered yes, the couple is engaged until the wedding ceremony has been completed. By tradition you exchange wedding rings when you get engaged. The engagement can be celebrated as family festivity. When the couple has engaged, the couple often begins being called fiancés. These couples were often called "Fästfolk" in Sweden. Getting engaged is something we humans have been doing for a long time.



Roller, monkey, owl, Carl Larssons nicknames for his Karin is many and down to earth, and Karin answers just as fondly; Big old lubber! Dear restless soul! My own, devilish handsome, loved boy! The letter exchange between the two breaths trust and respect that only seems to deepen with the passing years. In Per I Gedins letters we can follow them from the first meeting in the painting colony Grez-sur-Loing to their last years in Sundborn Dalarna. It becomes a story about a lifelong love. Karin Bergöö herself shaped their textile and furniture, in a none dated letter from 1883 she writes; Dear God that I came up with the idea of engaging me with you. To be away from each other and long for each other seems to be an essential part of Carl and Karins marriage. They had a number of different residents that they travelled between. When being apart they demand letters from each other. If they don't get any letters they seem to get annoyed, like how Carl puts it in of his letters; You little scoundrel! How can you be so despicable to postpone your letters! You have to understand that I grow mad by longing for you so! Yes, honestly said, I would probably be happier if I didn't so boundlessly love you. You little monkey, you mash of potatoes, you heartless Karin.

Designer Åse Öjbro, founder of Öjbro Vantfabrik, have created wearable art with mittens as her starting point. Åse worked as a painter in many years before she decided to express herself in wool instead. She has created this pattern design as a tribute to the unity of marriage. On the front of the mitten you can see the "Fästfolk" inside a arch. A reindeer couple on the top and the rest of the mitten is filled with hearts.

-I want to honor the unity and capture the wonderful feeling of being two. I find big inspiration in Carl and Karin Larsson and their Sundborn. When you love, give all you have. And when you have met your limit, you give more and don't forget how painful it is. For when it ends, its only the love you have given and received that counts. Your partner has chosen to share their life with you, you give your days to each other. I dedicate this pattern to all current and future couples. Long live unity. Ted, I give you my life, the only life I have.



*Exactly how long mittens have been knitted in Scandinavia is unclear, but there are preserved mitten fragments dating back to as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century.*

*This pattern is inspired by all of those love couples out there and then we have colored it in traditional colors.*

*Öjbro glove factory is passionate about passing on our different knitting traditions to other people.*

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