



DISRUPTING THE TRADITIONAL FOOTWEAR MODEL + BRINGING 3D-PRINTING ENTHUSIASTS TOGETHER!

SLEM And BioInspiration Against Pollution

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I'm starting to see more and more about 3D printing in the footwear industry, as well as with clothing and accessories. Footwear is a little behind in the industry, but companies like Nike and Under Armor are doing their best to "wake up" the possibilities. The Dutch footwear company, SLEM, has pointed out that slower progression could also be a blessing. We will be able to look into more sustainable and environmentally friendly 3D printed footwear, and SLEM has come up with 3D printed compostable shoes to help with this. They are working with a Berlin startup named BioInspiration, and working with their green, biodegradable and eco-friendly filaments to use with their 3D printers.

Calling it WillowFlex, the filament is made from an odor-free non-GMO cornstarch and it is completely compostable and upcyclable. WillowFlex is 90% biodegradable and can maintain integrity at temperatures up to 100 degrees Celsius. The filament can even stay flexible even in sub-zero cold. SLEM is a leader in the footwear industry and provides a range of educational courses and workshops for students and footwear companies. The company is continuously researching new innovations to assist 3D printed footwear. Such idea will continue to help other companies like Nike, 3DShoes, and Adidas who are working in the industry as well.

SLEM was unsure how to combine a comfortable 3D shoe with sustainable alternatives to what we have available currently. Thankfully BioInspiration has helped this dream become a closer reality for the future of footwear. Current shoe ideas are just prototypes, but they are they key to sustainable footwear production in the future. With WillowFlex we will also be able to achieve the same comfort we get from conventional footwear. We will continue to see ideas on 3DShoes.com, but there is still a long way until it is a reality. Both companies, however, are fairly certain that this will be better than conventional methods.

Original Article: <http://www.3ders.org/articles/20160929-bioinspiration-and-slem-fight-shoe-pollution-with-3d-printed-compostable-footwear.html> (<http://www.3ders.org/articles/20160929-bioinspiration-and-slem-fight-shoe-pollution-with-3d-printed-compostable-footwear.html>)

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