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■ I'm Axelle Stiefel, a Franco-Swiss artist based in Geneva. My work comprises performance, video, installation, exhibition, print and publishing, with a focus on textile metaphorology\* as a conceptual framework. Using textiles both as material and metaphor, I explore impermanence, repetition, circulation, and care.

I collaborate with organisations on long-term artistic projects, mediation, research, curatorial work, and consultancy. While rooted in the art world, my activity extends across diverse sectors, building bridges between art and other fields. By instigating dispositifs, within and beyond cultural settings, my work aligns with socially engaged and embedded art practices. Writing, teaching, facilitating workshops, and organizing cultural events are further extensions of this practice. I also manage production, logistics, fundraising, and communications, bringing this experience to the development of artistic, curatorial, collaborative projects.

Through distributed authorship and dispersed interventions across domains and media, my work operates relationally within adaptive systems rather than as a singular, marketable identity.

I am a founding member of several collaborative initiatives, including the editorial project *artist network theory*; the collective *calling the operator*; and *vorstellen.network*, a performative platform for artists' exchange.

My work has been presented internationally at institutions such as Wiels (Brussels, 2017); Forde (Genève, 2017); Kunstraum Niederösterreich (Vienna, 2019); Milieu (Bern, 2020); Kunstmuseum Gegenwart (Basel, 2021); Villa Le Parc (Annemasse, 2022); and Salle Crosnier (Geneva, 2022).

■ Recent I served as an embedded artist and co-curator alongside the collective Annexe for the Swiss Pavilion exhibition at the 19th Venice Architecture Biennale 2025. Previous collaborations include projects with the Competence Center Product & Textiles (HSLU, Lucerne), Viridén & Partners (Zurich), Ecole & Culture (DIP, Genève), the Textile and Design Alliance TaDA (Arbon), and the Sculpture Garden Biennale (Geneva).

■ Current I am working on a field research project at the University Hospital of Lausanne (CHUV), contributing artistic expertise to the PENbank project, which consists of a collection of anonymously conveyed narratives of and by physicians. This collaboration supports the development of mediation processes that bridge the gap between the public and the medical field, providing room for physicians' lived experiences.

\* Metaphorology as a discipline was established by Hans Blumenberg (1960). For Blumenberg, metaphors pre-exist concepts, providing the cognitive substrate from which they emerge. His notion of « absolute metaphors » describes figures that cannot be reduced to conceptual language but remain necessary for thought and orientation. My take on metaphorology transfers this framework into the textile realm as a recognition that textile metaphors operate as absolute metaphors. In this sense, textile metaphors in my work are not illustrative but foundational to the formation of concepts and practices. They shape how I think, connect, and structure projects.

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