

Media information

## DO STUFF! TEXTILE CREATIONS IN NEW DIMENSIONS

Exhibition at the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur / Switzerland  
6 June to 2 November 2025

Media briefing: Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 11:00  
Preview: Thursday, 5 June 2025, 18:30

**Textiles shape our everyday lives: they clothe, protect, decorate and conceal. They can also bear images and communicate through the interweaving of legible signs and visual narratives. “Do Stuff!” presents current works by the renowned Swiss textile creators Stéphanie Baechler, Christoph Hefti and Sonnhild Kestler, all three of whom previously focused on textile design for fashion fabrics. In recent years, however, their individual paths have led them away from fashion and into wider spaces as they explore larger formats and other dimensions of textiles.**

The exhibition delves into the world of large-format textile pictures that move between functionality, art and spatial experience. These printed, woven, knotted and embroidered works illustrate the different working methods of the three textile creators, demonstrating their technical sophistication as they seek to create expressive imagery through the effective use of materials.

As they explore the multidimensionality of textiles in striking ways, the three creators present scenarios, tell stories and create new visual concepts, each using their own characteristic visual language. “Do Stuff!” displays their spatial and textile creations in freshly staged combinations, traces their design and development processes, and also provides an insight into their sources of inspiration and visual worlds.

## STÉPHANIE BAECHLER

The work of the multidisciplinary artist Stéphanie Baechler takes place mainly at the intersection between textiles and ceramics. She is interested in the interplay between craftsmanship and technology, as well as their complex and often opaque relationships. Her artistic creativity has continually developed in the direction of sculpture and installations. Nowadays, she moves between what she calls hardware (ceramics and metal casting) and software (textiles). In her current artistic work, she scrutinizes the reasons behind people's constant need for recognition in the omnipresent social media landscape. Through her work with textiles, embroidery and ceramics, Baechler explores the kind of sensory experiences that are becoming increasingly rare as a result of today's technologies.

The concept of "image vehicles" conceived by art historian Aby Warburg was a starting point for the project undertaken by Stéphanie Baechler in 2022 during her Pro Helvetia residency programme in Cairo. Images, including those created in textiles, are always a means of communication, and can function on various levels as narratives, documentation or commentaries.

Pictorially, the images used in her works are very diverse, ranging from flower patterns derived from historical embroidery motifs used on handkerchiefs, via photographic impressions of demolition sites in Cairo, through to drawings of embroidery machines – the latter having been created in a workshop at the CREAHM studio in Fribourg by artists who have disabilities. Transforming her visual world into textile objects always takes place within the situational context, whether this is as a time-limited studio residency, a multi-year project for specific installations, or as collaborations with local hand weavers or hi-tech textile companies.

The "Do Stuff!" exhibition at the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur focuses on newer works from Stéphanie Baechler's installation projects. Sketchbooks, models, inspirations and statements explain her approaches and working methods.

### BIOGRAPHICAL MILESTONES: STÉPHANIE BAECHLER

Stéphanie Baechler (\*1983 in Meyriez/CH) currently lives and works in Amsterdam. Having begun her studies in textile design at the Lucerne School of Design, Film and Art, she graduated with a Master's degree in fashion from ArtEZ Arnheim/NL. She worked as a textile developer and design assistant for Hussein Chalayan in London and was head of print design for the renowned Swiss textile company Jakob Schlaepfer. Her artistic creativity has continually developed in the direction of sculpture and installations. In 2020, Stéphanie Baechler was Artist in Residence at TaDA – Textile and Design Alliance in Arbon. She collaborated with the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen in 2024 to exhibit her installation "Forget Me Not" at the historic Tröckneturm drying tower in St. Gallen; a comprehensive publication was also issued on the subject.

Her artistic works have been displayed in a number of group exhibitions, including at the Chamber Gallery in New York, the Kunsthalle Fri Art in Fribourg, the Centre d'art Pasquart in Biel, the ISO in Amsterdam and the Mode Museum in Antwerp. They also appear in public and private collections, such as those at Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD), the Museum für Gestaltung Zurich, the Musée d'art et d'histoire Fribourg (MAHF) and the Collection of the Canton of St. Gallen. Her works are represented by the Whitehouse Gallery in Brussels.

## CHRISTOPH HEFTI

Christoph Hefti is a storyteller and a tireless creator of expressive atmospheres. The visual worlds of this textile designer and artist often move in the realm of the mystical or even uncanny. Scenes in fantasy landscapes of forests, rivers and volcanoes are animated by figures, beasts and fabulous creatures. Recurring motifs such as huge eyes and impressive masks are aimed directly at the viewers and cast a spell over them.

Christoph Hefti's works are multifaceted. His love of handmade textiles has taken him to Nepal, among other places, where he regularly designs and develops his own series of hand-knotted carpets. It was there that he rediscovered the direct interaction between design and manufacturing and became fascinated by the deployment of traditional craftsmanship in a contemporary context. There is a long tradition of telling of stories through carpets, which Christoph Hefti continues and reinvigorates by incorporating his own unique experiences. At the same time, he uses the latest digital printing techniques to produce stunning curtain fabrics with large-format motifs and repeats. Sometimes he sits down at the sewing machine himself and creates floor-to-ceiling patchwork items.

In addition to recent pieces produced in the last few years, "Do Stuff!" presents entirely new installation compositions created by Christoph Hefti especially for the exhibition at the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur. His sketchbooks, design drawings and sources of inspiration also provide insights into his work.

### BIOGRAPHICAL MILESTONES: CHRISTOPH HEFTI

Textile designer and artist Christoph Hefti (\*1967 in Lausanne/CH) commutes between Brussels, Paris and Zurich. He studied textile design at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) before moving to Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London, where he gained a Master's degree in fashion, with distinction. Next, he began designing for Jean-Paul Gaultier in Paris and Dries Van Noten in Antwerp. Christoph Hefti spent 13 years as a creative assistant and print designer for the latter, with responsibility for printed textiles, including research, design and development. Later, he worked for a number of fashion houses, such as Lanvin and Balenciaga in Paris, as well as Acne Studios in Stockholm. Over the past few years he has increasingly developed his own textile creations: pictorial worlds which tell textile stories in a variety of materials, ranging from printed curtains and hand-knotted carpets to patchwork murals.

Christoph Hefti's work may be found in the collections of the Swiss National Museum and the Museum für Gestaltung Zurich. In 2009 Christoph Hefti was awarded the "Grand Prix Design" by the Federal Office of Culture. His works are represented by the Maniera gallery in Brussels and by Peter Kilchmann in Zurich.

## SONNHILD KESTLER

Sonnhild Kestler is renowned in the world of textile crafts and is an expert at screen printing, which has shaped her visual language. When she won the Swiss “Grand Prix Design 2010”, the term “Kestler cosmos” was used to describe her work. The idiosyncratic and unmistakable visual language that has characterized this cosmos for over 30 years features a flat, abstract motif style that extends across garments, carpets, terry cloths and upholstery fabrics. Craftsmanship is always her starting point, but from there she continues to test the limits of materials and techniques, even leaving decisions to chance at times. She playfully explores colours, materials and production possibilities, and experiments with printing processes and collage techniques – whether for fashion sketches or room installations. Her designs are created from printed papers using a specific composition technique. She transforms them into textiles using whichever seems the appropriate process – printing, weaving, knotting, embroidery. As she works, she sees the fragmented shapes with which she plays as translations of wishes, dreams and experiences. Travelling to explore other cultures is an important source of inspiration for her, and her works allude to folk art, Eastern Bloc aesthetics, Asian art, traditional Indian textiles, religiously motivated visual languages and everyday culture.

From flat pictorial designs, her characteristic foulards have in recent years been transposed into new dimensions. This expansion of her artistic repertoire is also based on her close collaboration with the renowned New York textile company Maharam and the Swiss company BUR-Architekten. She adroitly transfers her narrative motifs from one dimension to another in spontaneous combinations, constantly creating something new in her unmistakable, consistent visual language. An additive approach lies at the heart of her signature artistic style, which makes reference to a simple, “unspoilt” type of adornment that expresses a primal human need for beauty.

The “Do Stuff!” exhibition demonstrates a textile cosmos created both for the human body and for the surrounding space, while also presenting the artist's sources of inspiration and work processes. Sophisticated, multifaceted craftsmanship and a compelling interplay of forms are accordingly on display at the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur.

### BIOGRAPHICAL MILESTONES: SONNHILD KESTLER

Sonnhild Kestler (\*1963 in Germany, grew up near Zurich) studied textile design at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). From 1985 onwards she worked as a freelance designer, including for the Swiss labels “Pink Flamingo”, “Apropos” and “Sourire en Soie”. She was also an illustrator for various magazines from time to time. From 1988 she shared her first screen printing workshop with Karin Wälchli. At the same time, she and fashion designer Matthias Georg opened Georg Couture, a shop in which she sold her first products. From 1996 she rented a shop-in-shop at Thema Selection. Since then she has worked under her own label, “S. K. Hand-Druck”. For many years she screen printed the majority of her textiles by hand in her studio. Her product range covers mainly scarves, foulards, terry cloths, woven woollen and cotton cloths and accessories, as well as garments such as blouses, dresses and skirts. More recently, Sonnhild Kestler has turned to large-format works: carpets, upholstery fabrics and wallpaper. In 2010 she was awarded the “Grand Prix Design” by the Federal Office of Culture. Her work is represented in the collections of the Museum für Gestaltung Zurich and the Swiss National Museum, among others.

# INFORMATION

## MEDIA BRIEFING

Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 11:00

in the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur with a joint tour of the exhibition. The artists will be present and available for interviews.

## MEDIA RELATIONS

Luzia Davi, [gewerbemuseum.medien@win.ch](mailto:gewerbemuseum.medien@win.ch), telephone +41 (0)52 267 51 36 / 68 83

## MEDIA IMAGES

[gewerbemuseum.ch](http://gewerbemuseum.ch) / [Activities for the media](#)

Please respect the copyrights and use the images only in connection with reporting on the exhibition “Do Stuff! Textile Creations in New Dimensions” at the Gewerbemuseum Winterthur. Thank you very much!



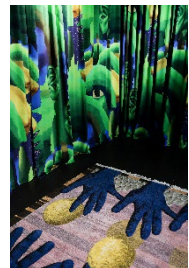
1) Christoph Hefti: Portrait in the exhibition room  
Photo: Gregory Georgescu



2) Christoph Hefti: Portrait in the exhibition room  
Photo: Gregory Georgescu



3) Christoph Hefti: Carpet  
Photo: Gregory Georgescu



3) Christoph Hefti: Project Little House at Dries Van Noten, Los Angeles, by Gallery Maniera  
Photo: Andrew Lee



5) Sonnhild Kestler: Portrait in the studio  
Photo: Maya & Daniele



6) Sonnhild Kestler: Foulard  
Photo: Arthur David



7a) Sonnhild Kestler: Carpet  
Photo: Arthur David



7) Sonnhild Kestler: Carpet  
Photo: Arthur David



9) Stephanie Baechler: Stadtbild I – Visage du caire I, unique piece, 2022



11) Stephanie Baechler: Portrait, 2023  
Photo: Francesco Ragusa



13a) Stephanie Baechler: Forget Me Not, 2024, installation at the Tröckneturm, St. Gallen  
Photo: Ladina Bischof



14) Stephanie Baechler: Moving from one place to another, work process in Cairo, 2022