

L'A
T E
EA
TEXTILE
WORKS

Mein Schwerpunkt ist das Entwerfen textiler Räume.

Ich bin begeistert von den vielen Möglichkeiten, die sich durch den Einsatz weicher Materialien bieten: ob für flexible Architekturformen, wandelbare Räume

oder Installationen, Vorhänge, Kunstobjekte, Kindergärten oder Büros. Als Designerin mit Erfahrung in Mode, Architektur und Kunst arbeite ich

gerne im Spannungsfeld von Disziplinen:

nutze die Qualität dicker Wollstoffe, einer unregelmässigen Drapierung und gedämpften Lichts (Raum der Stille) oder setze ganz auf Re-Use, die unschlagbar gute CO2-Bilanz und Schönheit sorgfältiger Handarbeit (Amt für Umwelt und Energie).

Neben der Entwurfsarbeit berate ich Architekt:innen und Künstler:innen bei der Umsetzung, leite Produktionen oder setze Entwürfe in meinem professionell ausgestatteten Textil-Studio selbst um.

Ich freue mich auf neue Projekte, progressive Ideen und interdisziplinäre Zusammenarbeiten.

Modedesignerin Cristina Wirth ist in Lugano aufgewachsen, studierte zwei Jahre Architektur an der ETH Zürich,

danach Fine Arts an der École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Genf und schloss ihre Ausbildung am Institut für Fashion Design an der FHNW Basel ab.

Seit 2010 arbeitet sie als freischaffende Mode-Designerin unter dem Label La Cri und realisiert textile Räume und Installationen.

Sie arbeitete an den Vorhang-Projekten mit u.a. Hagar Schmidhalter, Elisabeth Ritschard, Markus Stähli.

Sie ist Inhaberin und Gründerin von l'AREA.

My focus is spatial design through textiles. In particular, I am interested in exploring the manifold possibilities provided by using soft materials as flexible architectural forms—such as curtains or as textile installations—to create dynamic spaces in a wide span of functional areas ranging from kindergartens to offices.

As a designer with experience in fashion design, architecture and art,

I like to work in the interface between these disciplines, e.g.,

investigating qualities of thick wool fabric to develop an enigmatic atmosphere through the inherent irregular drape and subdued light transmission, as in Raum der Stille;

or concentrating on integrating such concepts as re-use, CO2 balance, and the beauty of meticulous handwork, as in the room divider artwork for the Amt für Umwelt und Energie. In addition to such spatial design work,

I am also engaged by architects and artists in the realization of their projects. As well I manage the production and implement designs in my own professionally equipped textile studio. I look forward to new projects, progressive ideas and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Fashion designer Cristina Wirth grew up in Lugano, studied architecture for two years at the ETH Zurich followed by fine arts at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Geneva completing her studies at the Institute for Fashion Design at the FHNW Basel.

Since 2010 she has worked as a freelance fashion designer under the label La Cri and practices as a spatial designer using textiles.

She worked on the curtain projects with a. o. Hagar Schmidhalter, Elisabeth Ritschard, Markus Stähli.

She is the owner and founder of l'AREA.

**DESIGN, CONSULTING, EXECUTION
TEXTILEWORKS@LACRI.CH
+41 (0)79 9087396**



DIVIDER CURTAINS AND WINDOW CURTAINS FOR AN OFFICE SPACE





DIVIDER CURTAINS

L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM

CLIENT

ARCHITECTURE

INTERIOR DESIGN, FURNISHINGS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Concept, artwork and execution

2023

Pieced Work, Re-use of leftover fabric scraps
Heavy cotton, wool, and cotton/wool blends
2.65 m x 10 m (divided into four panels)

Hamotec HM-20450

AUE, Basel / INCH Furniture, Basel
Jessen Vollenweider Architektur, Basel

INCH Furniture, Basel

2023 ©Cristina Wirth

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation in the conference room on the first floor of the new building for the Amt für Umwelt und Energie (AUE) [Department of Environment and Energy], Canton of Basel-Stadt.

The design process was guided by criteria such as re-use, circular economy, and conservative use of material resources. The fabric pieces in their found shapes are sewn together into one large composition. The curtain consists of four panels that enclose and divide the space when used as a conference room. Alternatively, depending on the work activity, the curtain can be partially closed to selectively shield or completely opened to use the room as a large workshop area.



WINDOW CURTAINS

L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM

CLIENT

ARCHITECTURE

INTERIOR DESIGN, FURNISHINGS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Concept, artwork and execution

2023

Re-use of leftover fabric scraps

Light cotton, polyester, linen, cupro

1.86 m x 3.3 m and 1.86 m x 2.8 m

Hamotec HM-20450

AUE, Basel / INCH Furniture, Basel

Jessen Vollenweider Architektur, Basel

INCH Furniture, Basel

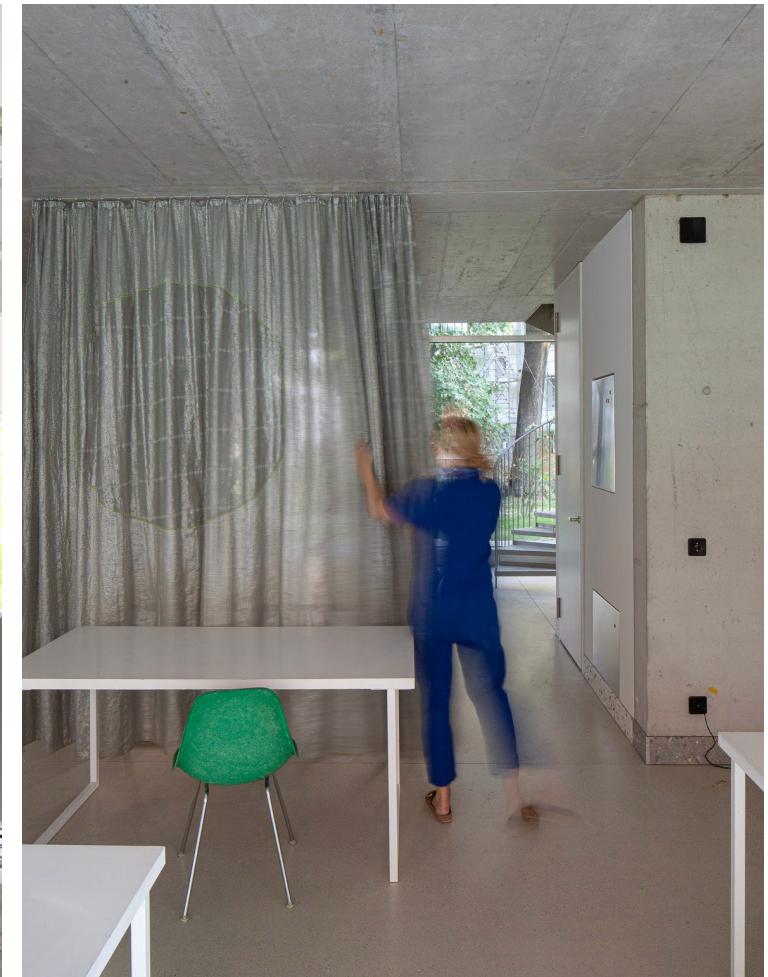
2023©C.W.

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation in the workshop area on the first floor of the new building for the Amt für Umwelt und Energie (AUE) [Department of Environment and Energy], Canton of Basel-Stadt, to create flexible work zones for the Neue Amtsstelle für Digitalisierung Basel-Stadt [new Department of Digitalization, Canton of Basel-Stadt] requiring options for protection from direct sunlight (external blinds) or from glare and screening to ensure privacy (curtains). The design process was guided by criteria such as re-use, circular economy, and conservative use of material resources.

DIVIDER SHADE CURTAINS FOR A CONFERENCE AREA





L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM

CLIENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Artwork and execution

2022

Silver mesh shade curtains with flatlock-stitched circles using neon yellow colored thread

Silver shade mesh

2.8 m x 12 m (divided into two panels)

Silentgliss 6103

Clauss Kahl Merz,

Atelier für Architektur + Städtebau GmbH, Basel

2022©Hagar Schmidhalter (left)

2023©Christian Kahl (right)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation for the conference area of the studio Clauss Kahl Merz, Atelier für Architektur+ Städtebau GmbH, Basel.

The curtain divider is a portion of a 1:1 prototype for an exterior dot pattern giant sunscreen curtain for the entire large window format façade of the residential building Lyse-Lotte in Basel by Clauss Kahl Merz.

ACOUSTIC AND OPTICAL ROOM DIVIDER CURTAIN FOR THE REFECTORY OF A KINDERGARTEN





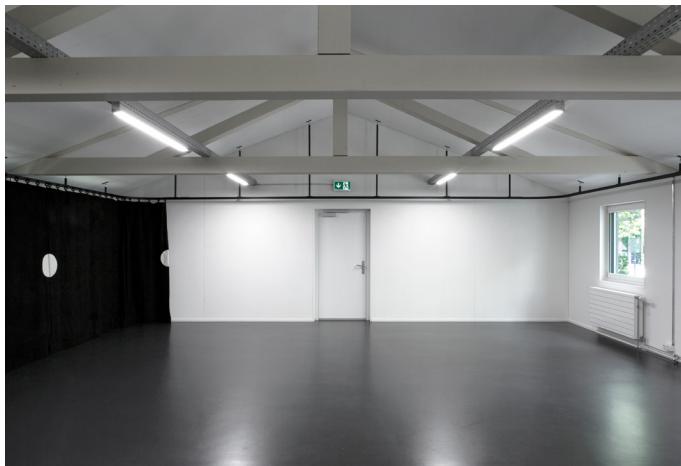
L'AREA	Print artwork and color concept
DATE OF COMPLETION	2021
DESCRIPTION	Three room divider curtains, one side printed, the other solid colored (yellow, blue, or red)
MATERIAL	Polyester (70% flame retardant), five layered Trevira SPORT acoustic curtain by Crédation Baumann
DIMENSIONS	3.20–4.05 m x 7.40 m, 3.38–4.22 m x 7.40 m, 3.56–4.41 m x 7.40 m
CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM	Erfal motor-operated rail 9500
CLIENT	Città di Lugano
ARCHITECTURE	Studio Gaggini, Lugano
PHOTOGRAPHY	2021©Alexander Zveiger (right). 2021©C.W. (other)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation of Three Acoustic Divider Curtains to Create a Refectory in the Kindergarten of Savosa. At lunchtime this multifunctional room is transformed into a three-zone refectory by opening three two-sided acoustic curtain dividers. One side is solid colored (yellow, blue, or red), while the other is defined by a print motif created by printed paper cutouts, which are mirrored and repeated to create a pattern reminiscent of tile walls often found in the typology of refectories.

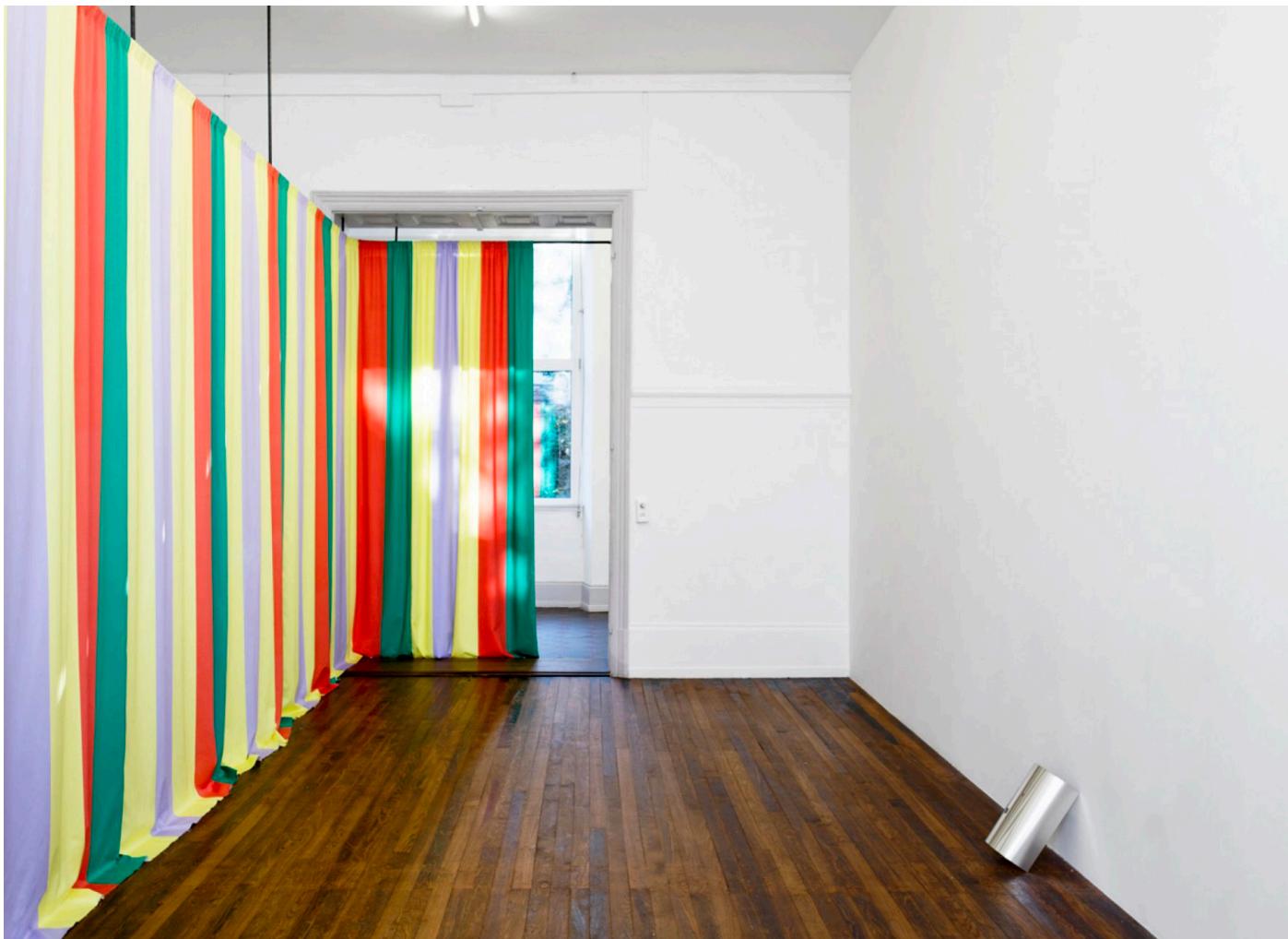
MULTIFUNCTIONAL CURTAIN FOR A YOUTH CENTRE



**L'AREA****DATE OF COMPLETION****DESCRIPTION****MATERIAL****DIMENSIONS****CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM****CLIENT****ARCHITECTURE****PHOTOGRAPHY****Concept, artwork and execution****2019****Re-used black fabric with white circles
(33 LP vinyl size) at the curtain edges****Re-used heavy cotton fleece with fake leather circles
2.50 m x 38 m (divided in panels of variable width)****Trumpf 95****Jugend Arbeit (JuAr) Basel
Martina Kausch Architektinnen, Basel
2019©Gina Folly****PROJECT/CONTEXT**

Jugendzentrum Eglisee, Basel, Pavilion for Activities with a Multifunctional Curtain. The entire pavilion has been transferred from the temporary art installation "One upon a time at the Kunstmuseum-Reconstruction of the former Gassenzimmer in Basel" to its new use for the Jugendzentrum Eglisee, Basel. In the art installation the black fleece was affixed to the pavilion walls, creating a dark background. Since the design process was guided by criteria such as circular economy and low budget requirements, the fabric has been entirely reused and now serves its new function for Jugendzentrum activities such as dancing, music and film.

CURTAIN INSTALLATION FOR THE EXHIBITION "WATER YOUR GARDEN IN THE MORNING" BY EDIT ODERBOLZ



L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CONCEPT AND CLIENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Consulting and support for the execution

2018

Colour striped curtain installation
part of the exhibition

"Water your garden(...)" by Edit Oderbolz

100% cotton satin stripe printed

Various sizes

Edit Oderbolz, Basel

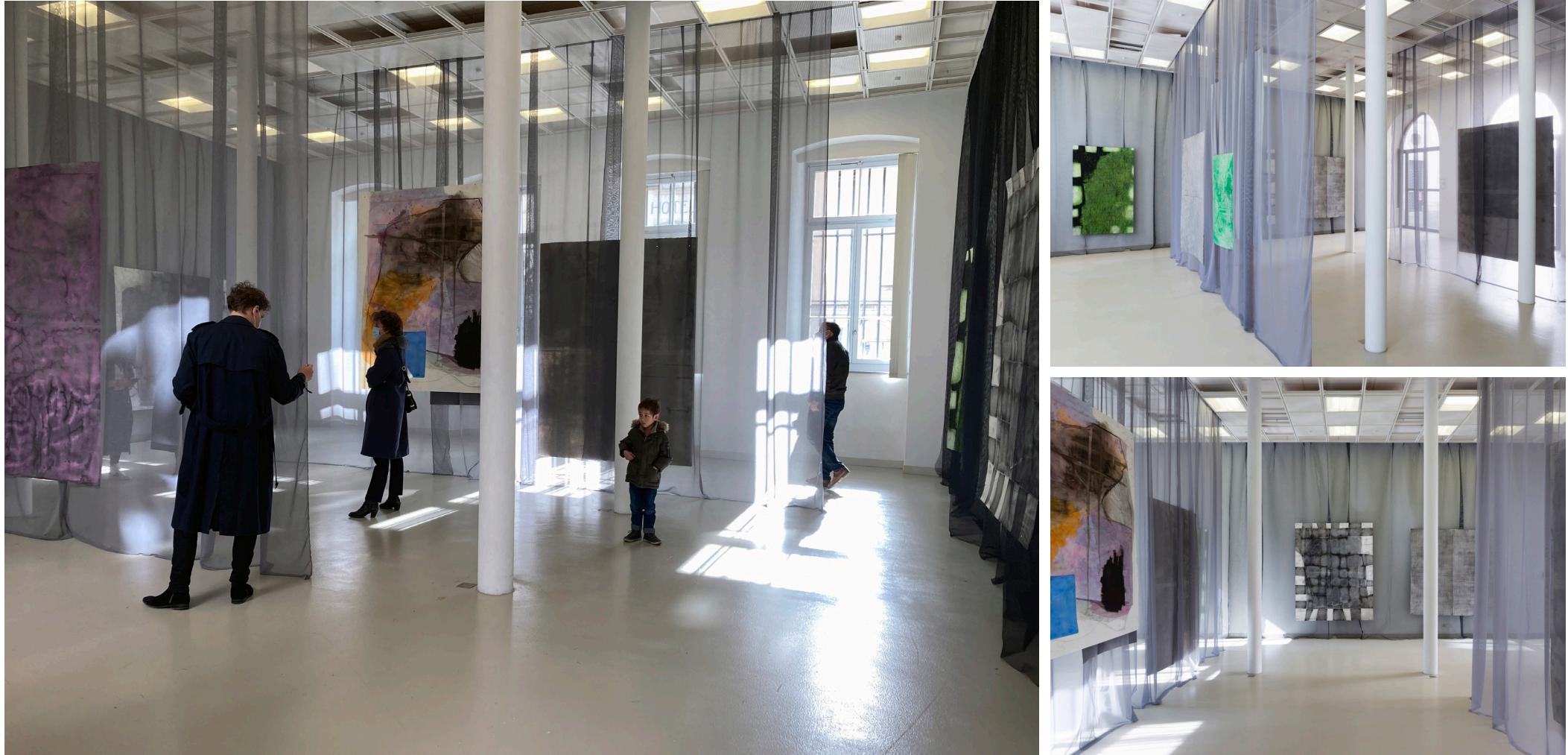
2018©A. Mole (left image). 2018©C.W. (right image)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation at Centre Rhénan d'Art Contemporain (CRAC), Altkirch FR.

Edit Oderbolz discovered the motif for her curtain artwork entitled Colour My Sleep in a photograph showing the curtain at an entrance of the [LC1] eccentric house Fazenda Capuava by Brazilian architect Flávio de Carvalho. As well, de Carvalho and his essay addressing critical questions to Le Corbusier served as the initial trigger for her overall exhibition. The colour stripes are realized by printing on 100% cotton satin. The curtain features occasional integrated pockets containing objects.

FABRIC DISPLAY FOR THE EXHIBITION "K." BY THOMAS HAURI



L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM

CONCEPT AND CLIENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Consulting and support for the execution

2021

Black and Grey mesh fabric installation part of the exhibition "K.", concept by Thomas Hauri
Trevira CS and Marquisette

Various widths, 4.50 m in height

Affixed directly to the ceiling

Thomas Hauri, Basel

2021©C.W. (left image). 2021©Jeannette Mehr (right)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation at Espace d'Art Contemporain les Halles (EAC), Porrentruy.

The black and grey mesh Trevira CS and Marquisette curtain installation was specially conceived by artist Thomas Hauri as part of the exhibition K. featuring his own artwork. The curtain display not only serves as a background for the paintings, responding to the architecture of the exhibition space, but also refers to the artist's concept for the overall exhibition. K. is inspired by the protagonist and narrator "K." in Franz Kafka's last novel The Castle in which the perimeters of the series of chambers expand, change, or sometimes dissolve entirely.

FABRIC COVERS FOR "SUBJOINDERS" BY KARIN HUEBER



L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CONCEPT AND CLIENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Consulting, pattern making and execution

2018

Based on the artist's drawings, the hanging metal hooks were covered with different shaped fabrics

Various stretch Cottons and Viscose Jerseys

Various sizes

Karin Hueber, Zürich

2018©Philipp Hänger

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation at Helmhaus Zürich and Kunstraum Riehen.

Subjoinders are hooks of various shapes covered with fabric, dangling like rough earrings from metal lobes. As familiar as the sculptures may seem at first (one thinks of coat hangers, jewelry etc.), they cannot really be assigned to any one area, having as much to do with fashion (weaving technique and fabric color) as with sports (strained joints), medicine (prostheses), butchery (butcher's hooks) or living (wardrobe).

SKIRTS FOR "RUINAISSANCE" BY ISABELLE KRIEG



L'AREA
DATE OF COMPLETION
DESCRIPTION
MATERIAL
DIMENSIONS
CONCEPT AND CLIENT
PHOTOGRAPHY

Consulting, pattern making and execution
2022
Skirts around the "colonnes du Ratzé"
Various Materials (Cotton, Linen Viscose)
4 pieces of 160 cm in length, circumference 175 cm
Isabelle Krieg, Kreuzlingen
2022©Isabelle Krieg

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation at the Musée d'art et d'histoire MAHF Fribourg which was activated by the performance of the international female vocal quartet Treta Mominka from Dresden. They sang popular chansons from Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania and Indonesia as well as Swiss natural yodeling.

CURTAIN INSTALLATION FOR THE ART OFFSPACE "A13"



L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Concept, artwork and execution

2024

Room dividing curtain between kitchen and "The Black Lodge" exhibition space

Double side mesh/wool mix and double side mesh/jersey mix

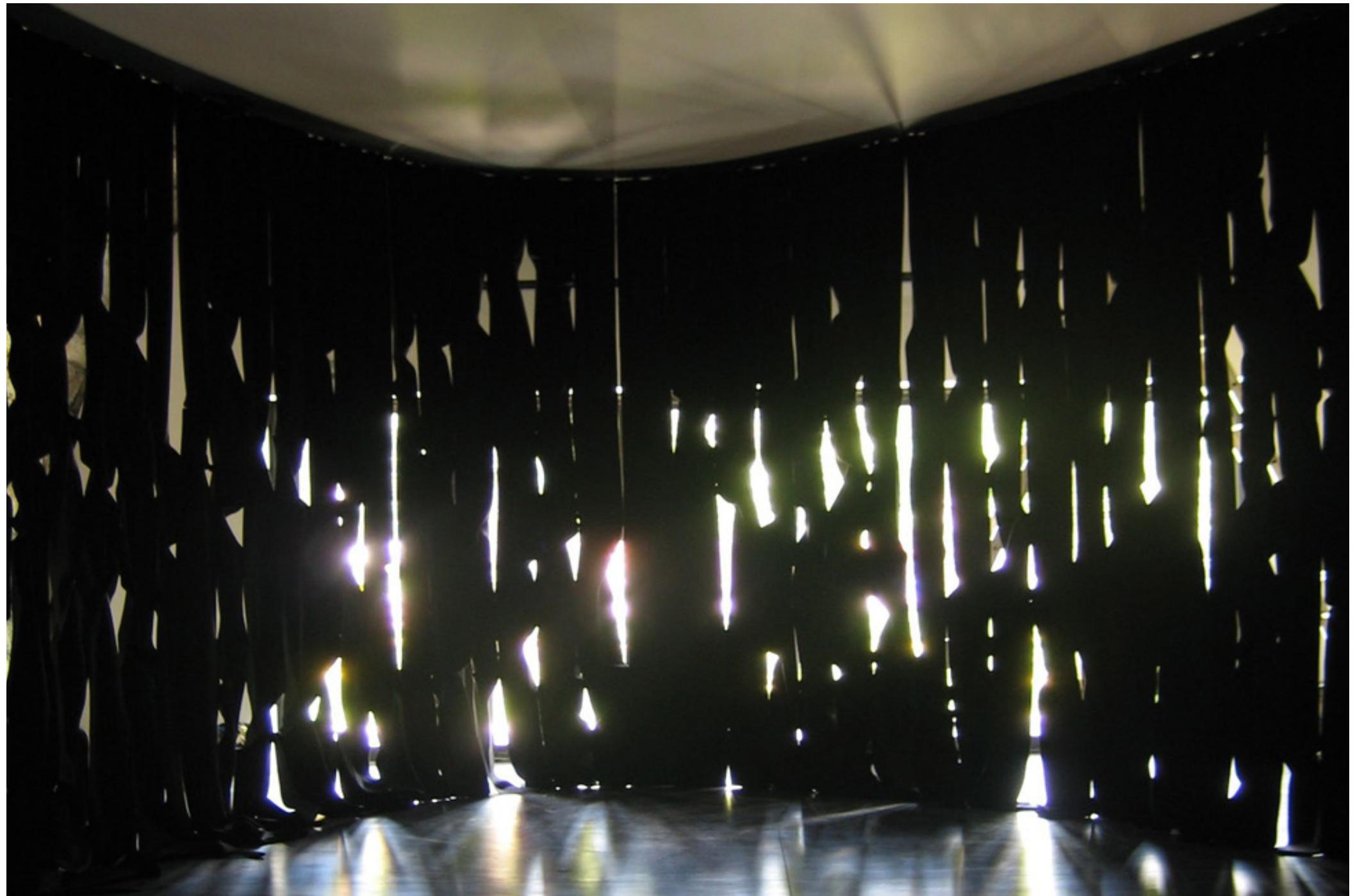
2.48 m x 0.7 m and 2m x 3.44 m

2024©Viktor Kolibàl (left image). 2024©C.W. (right)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation at the new art offspace "A13" in Bienne. The Black Lodge is a long, narrow room that functions as a dark cabinet within the exhibition space. One side of the room is adorned with a heavy black wool fabric curtain, while the opposite side is covered with a silver technical mesh fabric, elegantly topped with decorative drapes. This baroque-style decor creates a striking contrast with the wood and the simple renovation of the adjacent kitchen/lounge area of the exhibition space.

CURTAIN INSTALLATION FOR "RAUM DER STILLE"





L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CURTAIN TRACK SYSTEM

CLIENT

ARCHITECTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY

Concept, artwork, project lead and execution

2010

Oval curtain space. The edges of wool fabric panels 25cm wide were draped and folded and fixed with bartacks to obtain an irregular perforated soft wall
100% wool KVADRAT

4.50 m x 35 m, divided in 12 panels

Silentgliss 6101

Römisch-katholische Körperschaft Kanton Zürich
Jens Studer/Thomas Twerenbold, Zurich

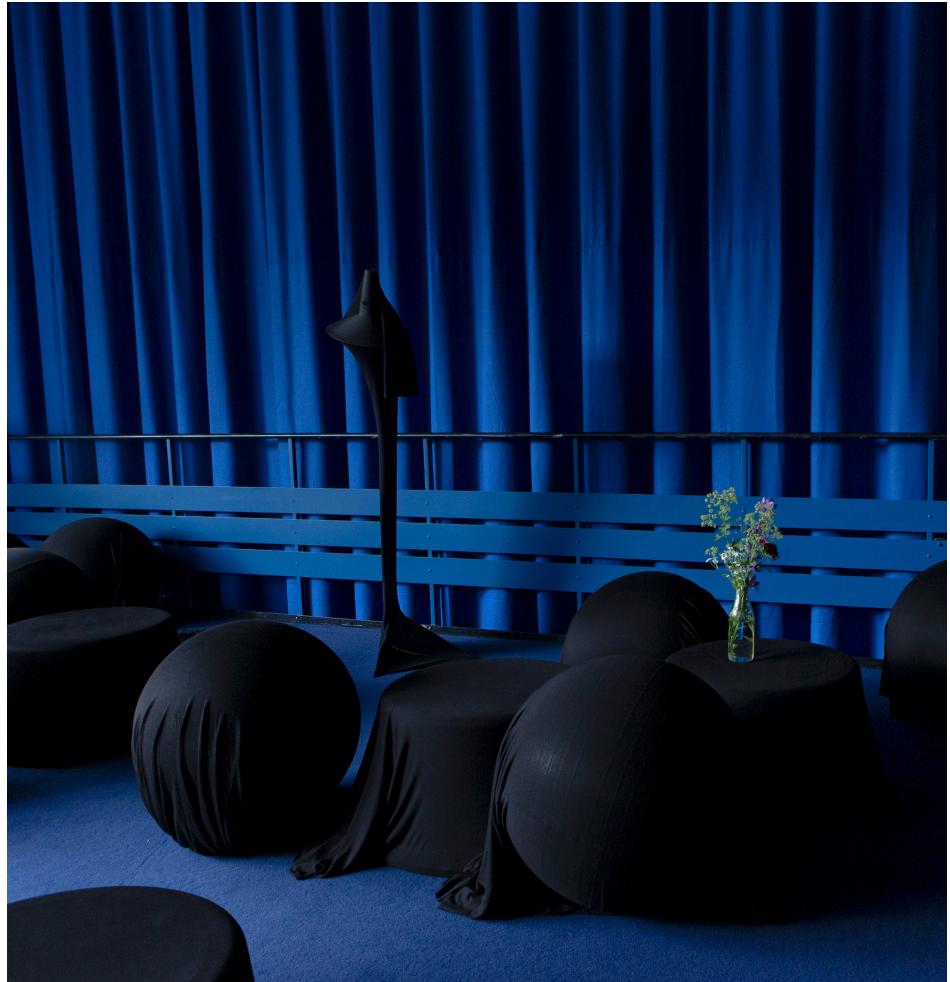
2010©Elisabeth Ritschard

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Installation in Jenseits, Bogen 12, Viaduktstrasse 65, Zurich.

For "Raum der Stille" we sought a solution that would introduce light into the interior while still preserving the sense of the surrounding space of the Viaduktbogen. The separation, therefore, should not be hermetic but possess a soft, tactile quality, as in a tent. The concept of the 'perforated wall,' as found in various religious buildings, served as a reference point. The question then arose of how to create openings in a curtain without cutting holes in the fabric but rather by utilizing the specific material properties. By folding and bartacking the wool fabric panels, the textile wall could be broken up and 'empty spaces' were created.

COVERS FOR MOVABLE FURNITURE FOR "HIDDEN BAR" AT ART BASEL



L'AREA

DATE OF COMPLETION

DESCRIPTION

MATERIAL

DIMENSIONS

CONCEPT

CLIENT

PHOTOGRAPHY

Execution

2019

Black stretch tubes which wrap around various objects like balls and inverted pots and serve as movable, flexible furniture
Cotton lycra stretch fabric, overlocked
Various sizes

Edit Oderbolz

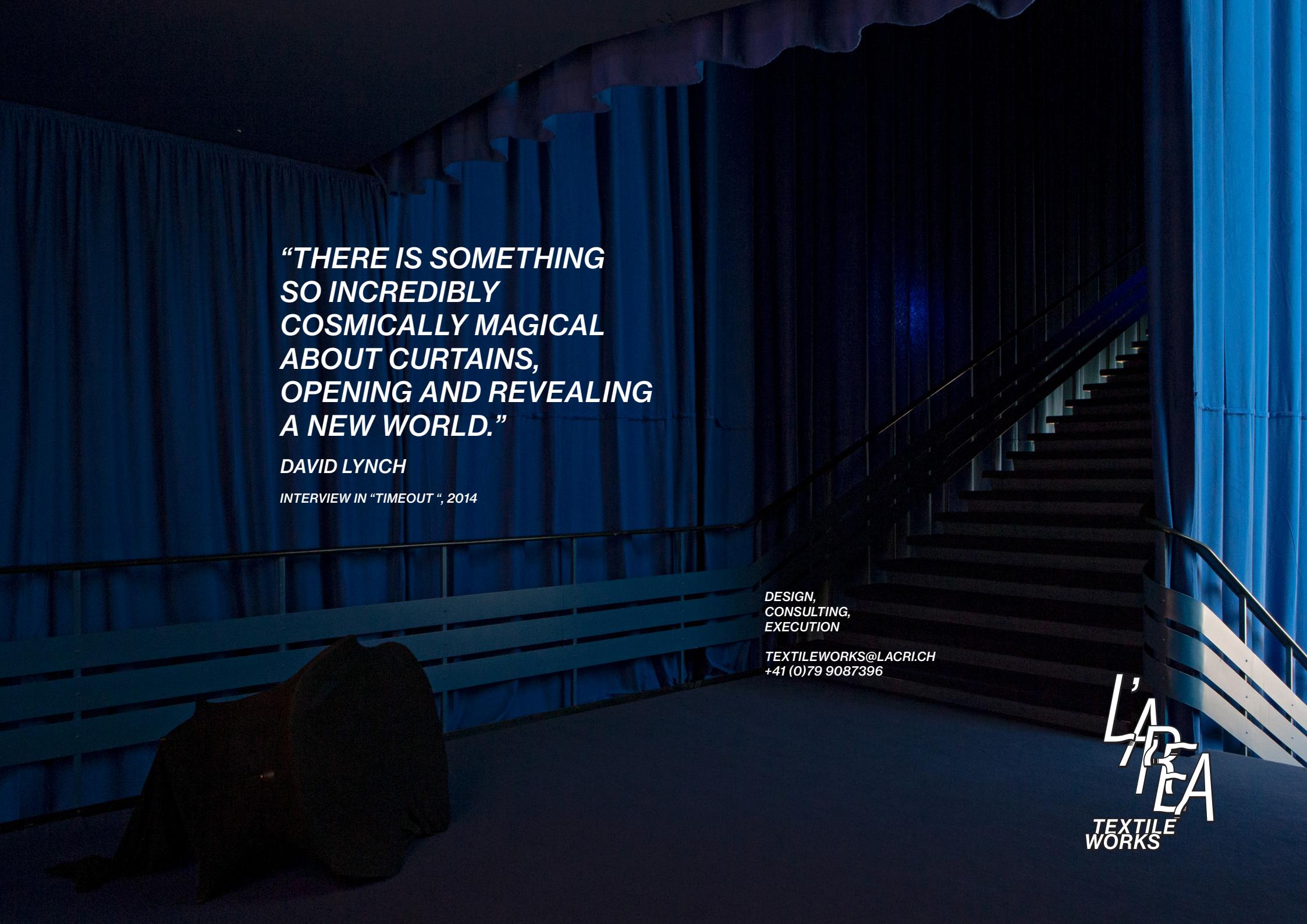
ART Basel

2019©Gina Folly

(also images on the cover and on the last page)

PROJECT/CONTEXT

Bar Furniture Installation in the Messehalle Basel during Art Basel. Hidden Bar was conceived as a temporary art-meeting place for ART Basel 2019. Located behind the clockface of architect Hans Hofmann's Rundhof building, a landmark of Swiss Modernism, the installation of artist Edit Oderbolz featured flexible movable furniture made with black stretch tubes of overlocked cotton stretch lycra wrapped around various objects like balls and inverted flower pots.



***“THERE IS SOMETHING
SO INCREDIBLY
COSMICALLY MAGICAL
ABOUT CURTAINS,
OPENING AND REVEALING
A NEW WORLD.”***

DAVID LYNCH

INTERVIEW IN “TIMEOUT”, 2014

*DESIGN,
CONSULTING,
EXECUTION*

*TEXTILEWORKS@LACRI.CH
+41 (0)79 9087396*

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