

Poetics of Drying

Artistic Practices
at Tröckneturm

St. Gallen

PROGRAMME

10:00

Welcome: Stéphanie Baechler

Presentation: Marianne Burki, Barbara Zoé Kiolbassa

Assistance: Paula Knill, Martina Lughì

10:15–10:45

HISTORY

Introduction: Textile designer Martin Leuthold

The Tröckneturm St. Gallen in a historical context

10:45–11:15

COFFEE BREAK

To capture the traces of the day, there will be a joint embroidery experience with a short introduction by Josy Kriemler

11:15–12:45

STORY BEHIND

Discussion: Artist Stéphanie Baechler and

Assistant Curator Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen

Barbara Zoé Kiolbassa

With Photographer Ladina Bischof

Insight into the artistic research and working process

12:45–14:00

LUNCH

14:00–14:45

ARCHITECTURE

Lecture: Architect Roger Boltshauser

Q&A: Stéphanie Baechler (*Dear Clay*)

Lecture on rammed earth construction, tradition, and potential; conversation exploring the relationship between textile and clay

14:45–16:45

TaDA Talk:

Local Production, Tradition, and Innovation

Discussion: Exchange with professionals from the textile industry

Brigitte Signer – Designer at Création Baumann AG

Daniel Rüdlinger – Contract Embroider

Samuel Wagner – Head Architecture & Sales Screen

Printing at Sefar AG

Stéphanie Baechler

Moderated by Marianne Burki

17:00–17:30

CLOSING DISCUSSION

Discussion: Marianne Burki and

Barbara Zoé Kiolbassa

Lectures and Discussions

Curated by Stéphanie Baechler

Saturday 31 August 2024

10:00–17:30

When we think of textile production, we often think of designing, dyeing, weaving, and embroidering, but rarely do we think of drying, even though it is an equally important part of the process. *Forget Me Not* deals with drying as a central aspect of the textile industry, as seen throughout the Eastern Swiss landscape. During the conference day, the history of the Tröckneturm St. Gallen, a remnant of the region's centuries-old textile industry, is revitalised through the different perspectives of experts from the fields of architecture, history, and culture.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stéphanie Baechler lives and works in Amsterdam. Within her multidisciplinary artistic practice she works mainly at the intersection of textile and ceramics. She is interested in the interplay between craft and technology; the complex and often ambiguous relationship between hand-made and machine-made results.

Ladina Bischof is a photographer based in St. Gallen, specialising in portraits and architecture. She has been working as a freelance photographer since 2013, and has been a member of the 13PHOTO agency since 2022.

Simona Bischof completed her Master's degree in Art and Cultural Education at ZHdK in 2019. After several positions in independent cultural mediation, she took over the management of cultural mediation for the Textile Museum St. Gallen in 2021. She has been teaching visual design at the St. Gallen Talent School since 2020. When she is not working, she is on the road with her band Batbait.

Roger Boltshauser graduated from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) in 1995 and founded Boltshauser Architekten AG the following year. Today, a team of about 75 employees works on all phases of the projects undertaken there. In addition to the main office in Zurich, a second office was opened in Munich 2021. Boltshauser has been a lecturer at ETH Zurich since 2018.

Marianne Burki is an art and architecture historian and has been artistic director of TaDA – Textile and Design Alliance since 2019. Previously she was Head of Visual Arts at the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia. She was President of the VKKS (Swiss Association of Art Historians) from 2018–2023. Since 2021 she has been Artistic Co-Director of Sequerciani Arte Clima, a project in Tuscany that brings together art, science, and agriculture.

Giovanni Carmine has been the director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen since 2007. In 2011 he was artistic coordinator of ILLUMInations – the 54th edition of the Venice Biennale – and co-editor of the catalogue, and in 2013 he curated the Swiss Pavilion at the same biennale with Valentin Carron. He has contributed to various magazines (*Kunstbulletin*, *Frieze*, *ArtReview*, *Parkett*). He is curator of Art Basel Unlimited and currently lives and works between Zurich and St. Gallen.

Dorothee Suggenheimer, DPhil, is co-head of Stadtarchiv und Vadianische Sammlung der Ortsbürgergemeinde St. Gallen

Norbert Häty studied at the University of St. Gallen and the University of Madrid, lic.oec. HSG. He has held managerial positions in various international and local companies, published historical articles in the *Oberberger Blätter*, and created an extensive Wikipedia entry on Turkish red dyeing. Lives in Gossau in the house built in 1820 by J.J. Kelly, the founder of the Turkish red dyeing company in Mettendorf.

Barbara Zoé Kielbassa is an art mediator, curator, and researcher who works on various projects. As part of her research project Mediating Media Arts, she is researching media art mediation practices in Korea, Japan, and Indonesia together with Fanny Kranz. She was part of the museum communication team at ZKM | Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe and coordinator for digital and moving image at documenta fifteen. Barbara currently lives in St. Gallen, Switzerland, where she works as a curatorial assistant at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen.

Paula Knill studied for a Bachelor's degree in Art Education at Zurich University of the Arts and is specialising in Master's Curatorial Studies. Until the end of 2023, she worked as a workshop mediator at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen. She has been Marianne Burki's assistant since autumn 2023. In recent years, she has worked as a project assistant for various projects and realised smaller exhibitions in off-spaces.

Josy Kriemler, an aspiring designer from Eastern Switzerland, successfully completed her Bachelor's degree in Fashion Design at the Academy of Art and Design FHNW in Basel. Over the past year, she gained diverse work experience at Akris, where she was involved in organising exhibitions at the Museum für Gestaltung Zurich and the Textilmuseum St. Gallen. Additionally, she interned at the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen and TaDA.

Martina Lughi has been working for the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia since 2018 alongside her work as an assistant to TaDA. She is currently a specialist in the Global Contacts and Initiatives team and is responsible for the international residency and research trip programme.

Martin Leuthold completed an apprenticeship as an embroidery designer after he joined the textile company Jakob Schlaepfer in 1973. From 1989 to 2018, he was creative director and a member of the management team at Schlaepfer and, together with his team, designed over 1,000 fabrics for the world of fashion every year. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Swiss Grand Prix Design from the Federal Office of Culture. Today he works in his private studio.

Daniel Rüdlinger is a contracted embroiderer based in Balgach, CH. In 1989, he took over the embroidery business of his father and developed it further. Since 1993, he has produced fabrics embroidered with sequins for Jakob Schlaepfer, among others. When Jakob Schlaepfer AG was sold in 2016, Daniel decided to close his embroidery business: the fifth generation switched off the lights. He is now a gardener, a cyclist, and a happy grandfather.

Brigitte Signer is a textile designer and has been working for Création Baumann since 2006. Her broad experience in the development of functional textiles for interiors enables her to create customised designs for specific products that are used in architecture in particular. She has familiarised herself with the production possibilities of European weaving mills and works at the interface between design and engineering.

Création Baumann is a family-run textile company based in Langenthal, which is represented by subsidiaries and partners in over 40 countries. Their passion for textiles began in 1886 and is still alive at Création Baumann today, now in its fourth generation. The company's own design studio and production facilities in Switzerland enable it to shape the entire manufacturing process itself — from the initial idea through to realisation.

Sefar AG is a global leader in the manufacture of technical precision fabrics, with a history spanning over 190 years. Headquartered in Heiden AR with branches in more than 26 countries, the company specialises in high-performance textiles used across various industries, including architecture. Sefar's textiles for architectural applications are renowned for their innovation, functionality, and design. They are utilised to colour glass facades, in folding stadium roofs, and for designing exclusive interiors. The company harnesses advanced production technologies to develop customised solutions. Working alongside architects and planners, they consistently extend the limits of architectural textile possibilities.

Samuel Wagner is currently Head of the Architecture Business Unit at Sefar AG. He has held management positions for over 30 years. As Head of Sales Screen Printing, he is responsible for the sale of precision fabrics in the graphic arts industry, textile printing, and countless industrial coatings. The last few years have been characterised by the exciting task of opening up new sales markets for innovative textiles, including heatable textiles and fabrics with sensor functions. He is passionate about tapping into market niches where technical textiles fulfil a function and at the same time take on an aesthetic role: the 'living' textile in a modern glass facade, designed by renowned architects, is one of his passions.

I would like to thank the following people for their invaluable contribution and commitment in realising this project. You made this possible.

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