

Soft Companions

Sensory-Interactive Textile Creatures for Reciprocal Care
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Hosted by: Katrijn Westland

Project Information (EN)

The Ecology

Motivated by the growing epidemic of loneliness and the underexplored role of sensory engagement in our caring habits, the project shifts attention from utilitarian human-object interaction towards reciprocal sensory interaction.

Rather than functioning as passive objects, the companions invite acts of grooming, soothing, observation, and care.

Using naturally dyed knitted textiles combined with e-textiles, sensors, pneumatic systems, and soft mechanics, the companions breathe, move, emit warmth and light, purr when content, encourage calm breathing, and wander towards sunlight.

Through these interactions, they create moments of mutual regulation between human and textile companion.

The resulting ecology positions textiles as active companions rather than passive matter, proposing care as a relational, sensory, and ecological exchange between human and non-human bodies.

Projectinformatie (NL)

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Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
4-katrijnwestland-soft-companions-celinecaly-01jpg_1791190050.png	Film still, Soft Companion: Morphling	Videographer: Celine Caly

Filename	Caption	Credit
katrijnwestland-soft-companions-fondling-celinecaly-03-1_1791217908.jpg	Film still, Soft Companion: Fondling	Videographer: Celine Caly
katrijnwestland-soft-companions-fondling-celinecaly-01-1_1791217944.jpg	Soft Companion: Fondling	Katrijn Westland
katrijn-westland-soft-companion-sample-1_1791217962.jpg	Soft Companions Sample	Katrijn Westland
3_1791217996.jpg	Soft Companion Sample	Katrijn Westland

The images above are included in the ZIP under /images.