

THE SWEET MYSTERY OF NOISE

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Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee Textil- und Flächen-Design Communicating Bodies WS 2021/22, BA, 7.Semester

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"Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviors and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time."

- World Health Organization

From the beginning of our existence we are assigned a biological sex: male or female, this is determined by our reproductive/genital organs. From this point there is an almost inevitable secondary step, that is, our biological sex is connected to our "gender". But what is meant by gender?

This inevitable step, gender, is a social construct and we can encounter it at virtually every stage of our lives in different forms and scenarios, for example, just by having a look at "boy toys" and "girl toys".

Little girls, according to the binary gender ideal, love pink, play Barbies, cook, comb their hair and take care of their dolls. According to the same rule but applied to boys, they love to play with cars, with robots, with the muscular and unbeatable Batman figure, with the "little scientist" sets or with water guns.

"Why are some activities for women and others for men?"

This project was born from my personal need to investigate the question, but I believe still legitimate for many people.

This process (of social construct?), in my point of view, of indoctrination, silently induces us to establish interests in certain things, that is, those to which we are accustomed and for which we have developed talents and passions, but under this mask of "freedom of choice" there is actually a limitation.

Getting used to something creates a false sense of protection and control and often this causes us to not see other possibilities for personal growth.

Another practical example, and one that is closer to my personal experience, involves the textile world. In particular when we focus on techniques such as knitting or crocheting.

The collective imagination refers to images of women, usually elderly, knitting while watching television trying to pass their time without getting bored. A rather reductive image that makes people think of these techniques as "old", "for women" or "easy".

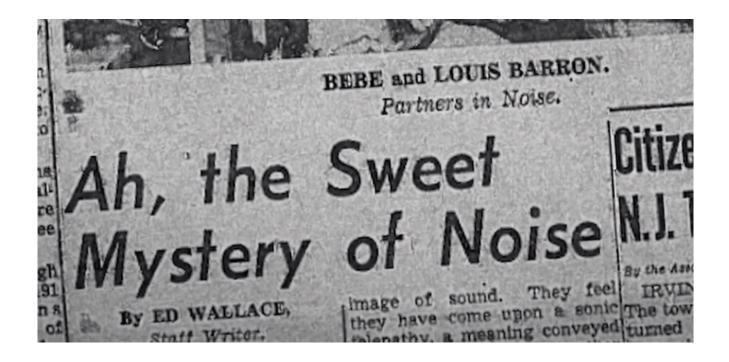
However, when a male person shows interest in these techniques and puts them into practice, it often happens that these men are put on a pedestal and receive much more attention and compliments as if, because a man knits then this action gains quality or complexity.

The point is that each person, without depending on their gender, should be free to perform actions as their heart desires.

Here can be found the Moodboard I've been using for organizing my project:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVOc6G_Qg=/

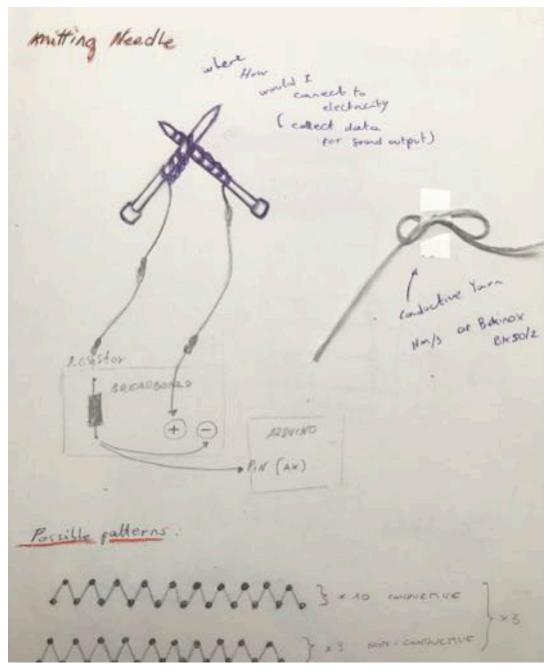




Gender cannot be destroyed but it can be transformed and in order to transform it, I think we need to look and perform our actions from a different perspective than we are used to. In the case of my project, I tried to connect two techniques that are normally characterized by a binary gender stereotype, that is: manual techniques like knitting are for women and technological techniques like building a circuit or programming are for men.

But how do we estrange these stereotypes from these two techniques? My answer is, "Noise!"

Noise is not something you can touch or see, it is not something tangible. Certainly, one can try to describe it through paraesthetics and abstractions but there will never be a "correct answer".



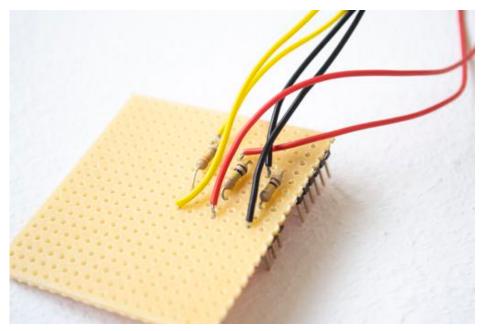
Sketch of possible circuit's connections.

NOISE SENSORS

To connect knitting techniques to noise, I used an Arduino, a circuit/breadboard, PureData patches of synths/MIDI notes musical instruments, and conductive wire I transformed three different textile techniques (knitting needles, knitting board and crochet) into textile instruments/sensors to obtain a concert of noises.

This concert of noises, wants to symbolize freedom.

That's why I asked 4 different people to be part of this project: I had them choose the technique, materials and adjust the PureData parameters on their own to obtain the noise that they liked best.

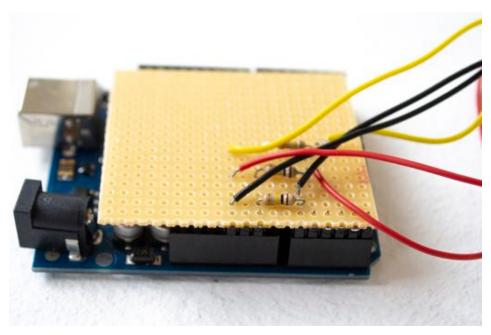


Breadboard with three different resistors connecting to the three different sensors

Black connects to the Knitting needles.

Red connects to the Knitting board.

Jellow connects to the Crochet.



The breadboard has been positioned directly on the Arduino and connected to it (5V and Ground as well as the pins A0-A5).



Crochet detail (White wool and Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20% stainless steel.



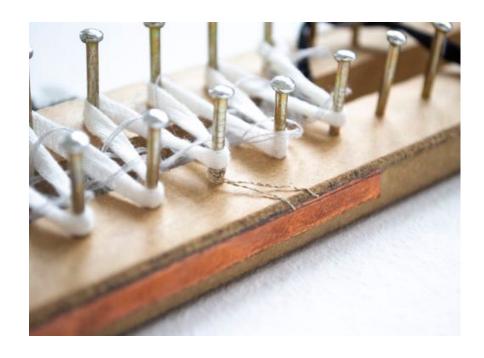
Crochet Sensor connected to Arduino.

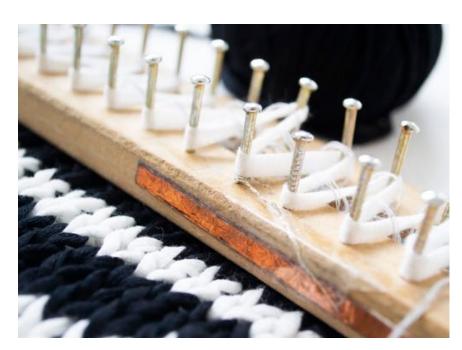


Kntting Needles detail (Black Velvet Yarn 100% Acrylic & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20% stainless steel

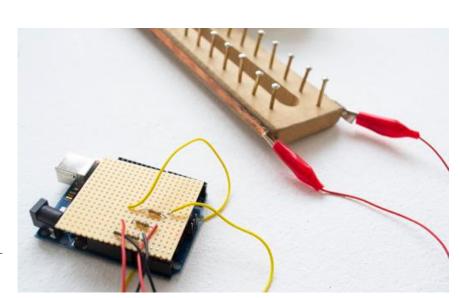


Knitting Needles sensor connected to Arduino.





Details of the Knittingboard connections to Arduino



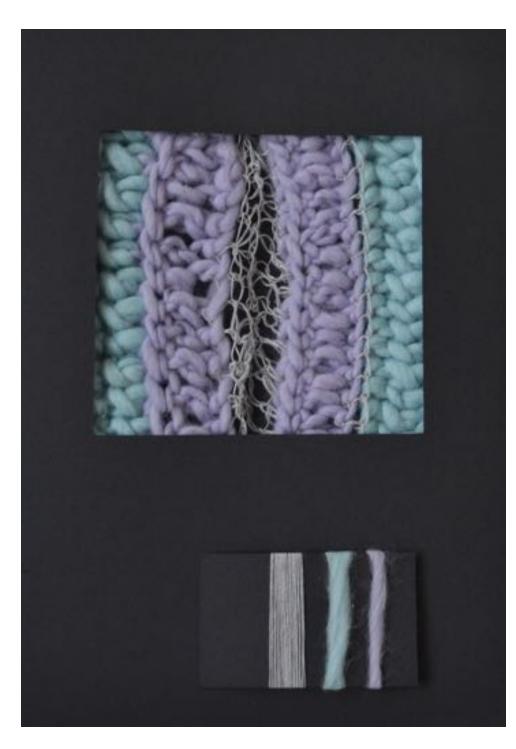


Knittingboard sensor connected to Arduino.

PEOPLE, MATERIALS AND NOISE PATTERNS

Some of the people who took part in this project have no experience with textile techniques, others study them and others are real masters of the latter, but all of them have experienced a new world, a new way of perceiving their craft and their activities.

Maybe this freedom can help to develop more curiosity towards technology and textiles and consequently transform the perception of society towards a wider and not only binary vision of things.



Note: 32

Harmonicity: 4

Modulation Index -11

Mod Decay: 4 Decay: 12

Scale: 400_600_0_0

PD Many Notes Activated

Person: Fruzsina Kiss (Painting Student)

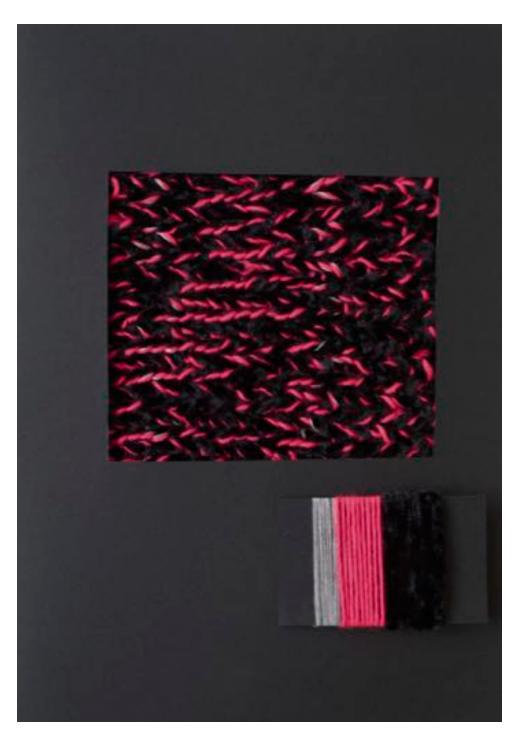
Technique: Crochet

Materials: Light blue and Lila yarn 100% Wool & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20%

stainless steel



Fruzsina Kiss using the crochet hook.



Note: 41

Harmonicity: 30 Modulation: Index -3 Mod Decay: -9

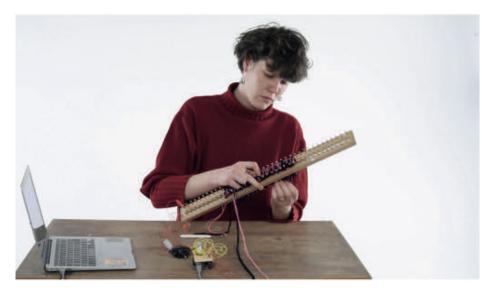
Decay: 0

Scale: 400_600_0_0

Person: Saskia Buch **Technique:** Knittingboard

Materials: Pink yarn 100% Cotton & Black Velvet Yarn 100% Acrylic & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80%

Polyester 20% stainless steel



Saskia buch working with the Knittingboard.



Note: 30 Harmonicity: 3 Modulation Index: -21

Mod Decay: 3 Decay: 9

Scale: 100_200_0_0

Person: Sebastian Plaza **Technique:** Knitting Needles

Materials: Green yarn 100% Cotton & Pink yarn 100% Polyester & Purple and Yellow Acrylic yarn & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20%

stainless steel



Sebastian Plaza working with Knitting Needles.



Note: 55

Harmonicity: 7

Modulation Index: -47

Mod Decay: 52 Decay: 4

Scale: 400_600_0_0

Delay with Mini Synth Monotron, Mixer,

Drumbox

Person: Sebastian Plaza **Technique:** Knitting Needles

Materials: black velvet yarn 100% Acrylic & white acrylic yarn & bordeaux Wool yarn & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20% stainless steel



Carlos Prado using the Knittingboard.



Note: 41

Harmonicity: 30 Modulation Index: -3 Mod Decay: -9

Decay: 0

Scale: 400_600_0_0

Person: Elisa Martignoni **Technique:** Knittingboard

Materials: Lila 100% Acrylic & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80%

Polyester 20% stainless steel



Elisa Martignoni working with Knitting Needles.



Note: 32

Harmonicity: 4

Modulation Index: -11

Mod Decay: 4

Decay: 12

Scale: 400_600_0_0

Person: Elisa Martignoni **Technique:** Knittingboard

Materials: Black Velvet Yarn 100% Acrylic & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polyester 20% stainless steel



Parameters PureData MIDI Note

Note: 32 MIDI Pitch: 67 **Modulation Index:** -6 Mod Decay: -2

Decay: 2

PD Many Notes Activated Scale:

1010_900_0_0

Person: Elisa Martignoni

Technique: Knitting Needles
Materials: Light blue wool & Black wool, polyacryl, polyamid yarn & Light grey Bekinox Conductive yarn BK50/2 Nm50/2 80% Polye-

ster 20% stainless steel



Note: 32

Notes: 72_80_78_74_76 (random)

PD Many Notes Activated Scale: 400_600_0_0

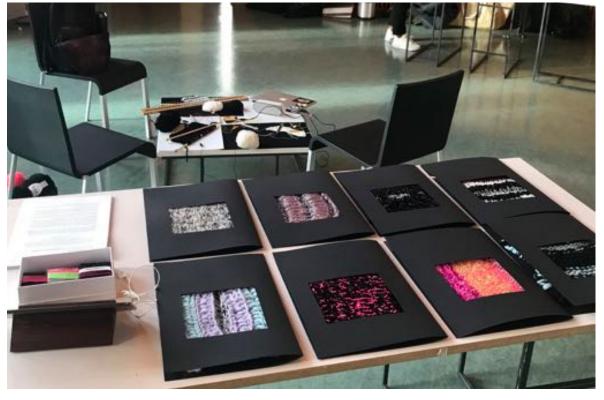
Person: Elisa Martignoni

Technique: Knittingboard **Materials:** Silver 100% Polyester & Light Gray
Nm10/3 conductive Yarn, 80% Polyester 20%

stain-less steel

I created an archive of the fabrics created during these performances with data regarding different information such as: Materials used, PureData parameters and the technique and person who developed it.

These small squares of fabric can be listened to again if the parameters used during their creation are applied.



The Archive exposed at our final presentation.

I am very happy with this project even though it is not complitely finished.

For the future I would like to have the opportunity to do a live performance, with more people involved at the same time, basically creating a knitted noise concert.

I would like to involve different artists and people of different ages and backgrounds.









All photos and illustations by Elisa Martignoni

beside:

Page 1) black bodysuit full body, https://www.amazon.com/Lttcbro-cuerpo-completo-unisex-Zentai/dp/B00SCOQE-RO?psc=1&pd_rd_w=r24V0&pf_rd_p=c9b3a448-7c3c-4399-ac60-2bdc98844f72&pf_rd_r=76NH4GYWKJZ24WATWBY1&pd_rd_r=4440f16b-dc73-4203-9b57-bef35a2679fe&pd_rd_wg=3bm7J&ref_=sspa_dk_rhf_detail_pt_sub_4&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUFHOFNQSEgwRzQ1MjYmZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTA1NzM0NTQxSlpSSVhON1kzWFQyJmVuY3J5cHR-IZEFkSWQ9QTAxNjQ2MjEzUDhZWTRQNzI0M0I0JndpZGdldE5hbWU9c3BfcmhmX2RldGFpbCZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWR-pcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=

Page 5) Screenshoot from documentary "Sisters with Transistors" docuentary

Many Thanks to:

Prof. Mika Satomi

Fruzsina Kiss

Saskia Buch

Carlos Prado

Sebastian Plaza