

## Background

The field of Touch has been actively researched from the 18th century on. The first research focus was triggered by the discovery of electricity. It was clear that only the human skin was able to register the charges of electric generators and batteries; no other senses were able to achieve this as precise and accurate as the skin. As a result the interest in the physical and psychological mechanisms of Touch was aroused and explored during the 19th century – with the intent of yielding objective scientific knowledge about the operation of the tactual senses. This culminated in the term 'haptics' as the 'doctrine of touch'.

## Research

The electricity wire in a variety of knitted shapes is one of the core materials of these series of works, integrating the two research strands (social touch | touch between human – object), as it is the material that connects both fear and intimacy in relation to touch.

Fear that is related to touching anything that has current running through it and intimacy that is triggered by the physical act of knitting, think of the homely, family, female emotional qualities knitted surfaces still evoke.

## Functionality

The sensations, thoughts, memories or emotions that are triggered through the touching of the wire can be influenced / changed by its transformational capacities, meaning the capacitive sensing qualities of the wire itself and the possibility to connect the wire to a variety of sensors that may translate the (quality, duration or number) of touching into sounds, words, images etc.

## Focus

The focus needs to be on 'the touching itself' – the touching between the physical skin and a certain living/nonliving object -> not (only) on touching the wire as a medium that will trigger something. For that to happen the wire needs to be perceived as a framing device -> a device that provides a starting point, a question, a word, an invitation for touch(ing) *through or with* it.

























