



Dear artists,

I would like to warmly invite you to work with me on a textile installation on the theme of *"Fragile"*.

Our world is changing: the increasing loss of green spaces, flower meadows and biodiversity is becoming more and more worrying worldwide.

For many years, as an artist and biologist, I have been committed to our nature with the intention of making it visible, awakening mindfulness and touching hearts.

I have always had a special affection for the delicate, colorful butterflies that embody so much grace and lightness and enchant with their fragile, beautiful cocoons and their impressive ability to change and transform.

Like many other insect species, they are enormously threatened by our "sense of order", which provides less and less space for wild corners, flowering meadows and fields, as well as by the use of insecticides and the loss of structure and habitat! From year to year there are fewer of them and the diversity of species is drastically decreasing.

Few people know that many of our butterfly species depend on supposed "weeds" such as nettles and other wild flowering plants for their development and how important it is that areas with plant stems and wild growth are allowed to remain as places of refuge all year round - even in the cold season.

We are all pieces of a puzzle, parts of the larger whole that can only exist in harmony if we treat each other lovingly and carefully!

A very nice, figurative comparison comes from the famous scientist and conservation activist Jane Goodall, who compares biodiversity to a large orchestra: if a single instrument fails, you will hardly notice the difference, but if more and more instruments stop playing, disharmony arises and then the entire piece of music collapses...

The planned room installation is intended to carry this message of fragility into the world:

A large group of diverse, colorful butterflies, on a fine fabric made of nettle yarn, which "get in touch" with the visitor - becomes sparser and less colorful and finally dissolves into a loose group with a few individuals of the same color and empty strings as a symbol of the lost species...

1. This requires **a large number of light, colorful, textile butterflies** in different sizes from approx. 5 cm to the size of the palm of your hand (approx. 10 cm)

Designed using **patchwork, mixed media and quilting techniques**, sewn from fabric, lace, paper, etc. sewn, embroidered ...- there are no limits to your imagination!

2. IMPORTANT is: that in addition to the colorful specimens, **monochrome animals in shades of yellow and white** are also created to represent the dwindling of diversity!

3. Please send your artistically designed pieces to the following address:

*Atelier DRYADE
Gabriele Schilcher
Unterrettenbach 117
A-8261 Sinabelkirchen*

All contributions that reach me by **1. March 2025** will be considered!

I would also ask that everyone who takes part sews (embroiders, writes...) his name and country of origin onto an approx. 10 x 5 cm piece of fabric and encloses it in the mail, for example:

Gabriele Schilcher Austria

All your names will be part of a **“textile participant list”** on a large butterfly wing as a symbol of our shared commitment!

This project is supported by the great textile artists of the **Associazione ad Maiora Verona**

The installation will be on display in Italy from **14.-18. May, 2025**
at the **Verona tessile** and at my planned exhibition
“BERÜHRUNGEN” in Austria.

*I would be happy with all my heart to bring this message of
mindfulness and sustainability with you into the world -
together we can make a difference,
together we are strong!*

I firmly believe that every single person can make
a difference and every small contribution counts

- here's to a wonderful collaboration...

Gabriele



🌻 **IMPORTANT:** your participation in the project is free!

Please send your light butterflies to me as a **LETTER**.
If you have to declare your shipment, please declare it
as a **“GIFT”** (0, - Euro, or 0, - Dollar, etc. value!). Otherwise I
will have to pay for it when I receive the shipment.

THANK YOU!