

XS LABS: electronic garments that consume the body

Joanna Berzowska will give an overview of XS Labs design research and methodology, with a particular emphasis on projects such as the SKORPIONS that explore new relationships between the body, textiles, and electronics within a multi-disciplinary cultural, social, and political context.

XS LABS

www.xslabs.net

XS Labs is a design research studio with a focus on innovation in the fields of electronic textiles and wearable computing, where we try to break down the traditional boundaries between disciplines. Many of our electronic textile innovations come from the fact that we look at the technical but also cultural history of how textiles have been made for generations (weaving, stitching, embroidery, knitting, beading, quilting) but use materials with different electro-mechanical properties, which enables us to construct more complex textiles with electronic properties.

SKORPIONS are a set of kinetic electronic garments that move and change on the body in slow, organic motions. They integrate the shape-memory alloy Nitinol and mechanical actuators such as magnets with soft electronic circuits and traditional textile construction techniques. The cut of the pattern, the seams, and other construction details become an important component of engineering design. SKORPIONS reference the history of garments as instruments of pain and desire.