

# Biennale internationale design

Saint-Étienne **10 ANS** 15 → 30 NOV.2008



**Roxane Andrès**

Lives and works in Lyon, France  
Independent artist – designer since 2005

Roxane Andrès (artist and designer) has worked as an independent since 2005, setting up her workshop in Lyon St Jean in 2006. There she practices the numerous techniques associated with textiles in her quest for artistic and design application discoveries, as well as theoretical research. It was during training in the applied art schools of Lyon (Diderot -La Martinière) and Saint Étienne (she obtained a Masters at Saint Étienne University) that she began to set up the first elements of her professional network. The encounters and the research carried out in medical circles turned out to be of the greatest importance for what came next. Today Roxane Andrès' activity is focused on the theme of the borders between art, design and medicine.

She creates objects that are also works of art, objects that provide links, objects that provide support, cuddly toys that are sculpture, building games made of textiles and so on. A world of hybridisation, a witness to the desire to connect very different domains and codes. For Roxane Andrès, design is more than a domain of application, it is a laboratory for moving between different universes and creating unexpected mixes and encounters. One of those encounters that characterised her approach was with the world of medicine: a genuine involvement in hospital care, therapy and reconstruction. Her approach and research are woven together, the fruit of her thinking on the body, medical care, medicine, protective medicine, childhood and the world of emergency services, on the medical and the therapeutic levels. The work is based on the elements that link people, on care, childhood, on protection and the humanities, but also on the notions of doubt and fragility.

Among those partnering with her, is the publisher of her first book: Pôle des Technologies Médicales de Saint-Étienne [*Saint Etienne Medical Technologies Centre*]. The Cité du Design also supports her research work. The Saint Etienne General Hospital, under the directorship of Professor V. Gautheron, director of paediatrics, also hosts many of her projects and provides facilities for testing the objects.

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### Approach

Roxane Andrès' research focuses on the increasing permeability of the borders between art, design, technology and science. At the same time that designers are moving away from the notion of "industrial creation" in order to rethink the status of the object, and as a result, rethinking their own status, artists are leaving their studios and confronting social, political and economic worlds, and thus, social reality. Roxane Andrès' world is the result of thinking about the human body, especially as perceived by science and medical advances, but also as regards health care, protection and emergency services, part of our daily life, on the medical as well as the therapeutic levels. Her approach is inspired by children and their imagination and sense of graphic reality. It is also for children that Roxane creates link-objects, cuddly toy-sculptures and textile building games, using support-objects, always in a therapeutic and symbolic context.

The imaginary perception of the human body to which the medical world gives rise, body organs, the notion of prostheses, implants, transplants, hybridisation... all are food for thought.

Roxane Andrès' approach is embodied in the 'Panser Autrement' [*A Different Way of Thinking/Treating*](polymorphous) project, arising from the desire to create openings between domains (artistic, social, scientific, design, psychological etc) and her deep commitment to hospital care, therapy and reconstruction. Wounds, disease and handicaps can become a daily reality for anyone, and it seemed to her that there was a need to treat them not only through medical means. Her work is based on relationships, care, protection and humane feeling, but also on doubt and fragility. Roxane A. has recounted how she started out (2004-2005) in the book *Transmission Tissulaire [Tissue Transmission]*, the 'Panser Autrement' project, published by the Medical Technologies Centre in October 2006. The artist uses techniques from the world of textiles (printing, screen-printing, embroidery, dyeing, sewing etc) in order to create her works. The tangibility of the materials is very much part of her works.

"Whereas the medical world uses cold, smooth materials (glass, ceramics, metals), I use textiles, which by their nature are linked to the idea of palpable, flexible matter, rather than rigidity." Roxane's work is built on symbols, the contrasts between materials, techniques and signs. The projects seemed to be saying "be careful of objects", and are an interrogation of the way we use them, produce them, and the relationship between the user and the object in a world where (over) production tends to annihilate desire and any emotional attachment to them that we may have.

This opens the way to new thinking on the object, its life cycle, and our relationship to what we produce. The thinking clearly goes beyond medical concerns, but remains closely linked to the idea of care. Today we live in a world where objects are rapidly consumed, where they fulfil their function with very little effort on our part – and the result is a decline of the emotional aspect. Objects pass through our lives and leave no traces in our memory other than pollution and mounds of garbage.

There appears to be a tendency emerging, counter to consumer mentality and to single-use products, a demand for lasting objects that have 'profundity', meaning and aesthetic substance (signs and actions).

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Objects are also appearing that require skill on the part of the user, in fact attention is tending to focus more on the user (demanding skilful gestures and active participation), as compared to unthinking consumerism. This is the result of changes in behaviour in the face of consumerism and changing attitudes to production i.e. objects that require us to be thoughtful, attentive and emotionally involved.

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Biographical data

Exhibitions / Workshops .....

-collective:

06-2008>10-2008: "Design sous influences" [*Design under the Influence*] at the Château de Sainte-Colombes in Auxois

01-2008: 'Salon Maison et Objet', carte blanche to invited artists, Paris

10-2007: Design Map (crafts, application and design teaching), The Cité du Design, Saint Etienne

11-2006: Design et Santé pour tous, [*Design and Health for Everyone*] Saint Etienne International Design Biennial

05-2005: À corps défendu, [*Over My Dead Body*] ENS, Lyon

09-2004: 'De fils en paroles', Creators' Village, Lyon 1

-personal:

10-2008: workshop at the Château de Saint-Colombes in Auxois

04-2008: Roxane Andrès Exhibition / 1011, MAPRA, Lyon

02-2008: Roxane Andrès Workshop, MUDAM, Luxembourg

01-2008: Who's Next Salon, Exhibition, Paris

12-2007: Link-objects / support-objects by Roxane Andrès, Balouga, Paris 3

05-2007: Inauguration of Roxane Andrès Studio, 66 rue Saint Jean, Lyon 5

05-2006: 'Panser Autrement', design by Roxane Andrès, *Niou Galerie et boutique*, Paris 4

04-2006: 'Panser Autrement', *Obj'm Galerie*, Lyon 4

12-2005: Panser Autrement by Roxane Andrès, *Sophie Guyot Showroom-Gallery* Lyon 1

Publications .....

La Fabrique de Cœurs [*Manufacturing of Hearts*], a book published by the MUDAM in Luxembourg on the occasion of the 2008 workshop, 16 and 17 February.

*Transmission tissulaire*, the Panser Autrement project, Roxane Andrès, published by the the Saint Etienne Medical Technologies Centre 2006

Bibliography

Roxane Andrès, Design pour panser [*Design for Treatment*], Home magazine no. 14, April-May 2008, p.29

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Children, Quand le design aide à guérir [*When Design Helps In Healing*] Elle Magazine, April 2007  
*Les Bandes Originales* by Roxane Andrès, Maison et Objet online Magazine, January 2007

2006 International Design biennial, the book 'Know-How, Roxane Andrès, Cuddly Toys, Bandages, Tissue Transmission, A Different Way of Treatment', Cité of Design Publications, January 2007, p 213.

Trophy for Design Innovation in Medical Devices, Le Progrès, December 2006

Design and Health: 'Man as the Focus of Care', Le progrès, December 2006

Design and Health for Everyone, *Bandes Originales* by Roxane Andrès, Saint Etienne International Design biennial catalogue, November 2006

*Les maux doux* - Roxane Andrès, *À nous Lyon* exhibition, November 2005  
Exposition 'Panser Autrement' by Roxane Andrès, Le Progrès, October 2005

### Prizes and competitions

2007 / winner of the trophy from the Griffes Lyonnaises 2006 / Medical Devices Innovation Design Trophy , on the occasion of the Saint Etienne International Design Biennial

2005 / Bursary from ANVAR Rhone-Alpes for project development on care items made of textiles

### Training

2006-2009 / Doctorate in Design Research, Saint Etienne Doctorate School  
Research Subjects: Topological space in contemporary design, the issues, the practices and concepts of the designer / Permeability in the borders between art and design / The 'Interbody' design project in the hospital context as a laboratory for cross-border research in the real world.

2005-2006 / Master Design, Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne

2003-2005 / Higher Diploma in Applied Arts, La Martinière, Lyon

2001-2003 / BTS Art in textiles and printing, Diderot High School, Lyon

### Post Graduate

- Design License 3, Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne

- Higher Diploma in Applied Arts, textile studies, La Martinière-Diderot, Lyon 1, 2005-2007

### Additional activity

- Commissar of the Design / Health Exhibition: 'Status of the Body. *Inside, outside, around*' under the directorship of the head commissar Marc Partouche for the Saint Etienne Cité du Design, International Design biennial, November 2008.- Research and creations for the artists Lucy and Jorge Orta, at the Orta Studio (Project: Orta Water, Fallujah, Antarctic Village. No borders), Paris 12, 2004-2007