

# Soft Monitor

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## For Immediate Release:

Soft Monitor is a creative studio formed by award-winning, New York-based artists/designers Victoria Manganiello and Julian Goldman. This fall, Soft Monitor's *computer 1.0* will be exhibited internationally for the first time at the Ars Electronica StARTs Prize festival in Linz, Austria from September 9th to 13th alongside artists such as Andrea Ling, Olga Kisseleva and M Eifler. It will then travel to Brussels, Belgium to be exhibited at BOZAR Center for Fine Arts from September 26th to October 25th.

*computer 1.0* is a large scale installation with a handmade textile woven with cotton yarn and hollow polymer tubing. A series of liquid and air is pumped through more than 1,200 meters of woven tubing to display an intentional pattern dictated by computer code and an operating system made of air compressors, regulators, valves, and sensors. The installation is hung to respond to space so that visitors may be under, above, or "within" the piece to experience its kinetic surface and subtle sounds. Inspired by historical overlaps between computers and textiles, "*computer 1.0*" seeks to explore the possible futures of the everyday materials we rely on including everything from our clothing to our screens.

In awarding Soft Monitor an Honorary Mention for their annual prize, Ars Electronica noted, "*computer 1.0 is a fascinating installation that is not only a beautiful art piece replicating an imaginary information processing device from the past but also a visually poetic testimony of the stressful dystopian future of the information age. ... The artwork is an intimate crossover of tech and textiles, and a reminder of how intellectual people of the past have ignited the evolution of communication, starting from a primitive form of design.*"

In addition to the exhibitions in Austria and Brussels this fall, you can see more of *Soft Monitor* and engage with their projects via New York Textile Month when they will be offering a free workshop about the intersections of textiles and technology - more information is available on their website. In 2021, they will exhibit their work in New York, NY at Tower49 Gallery, and in Asheville, North Carolina, USA at the Center for Craft.

Soft Monitor is a new frame for an ongoing collaboration between Goldman and Manganiello begun in 2017. Their work has been exhibited throughout the USA including at the Museum of Arts and Design, the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Governor's Island Art Fair. Commissions and grants include the Wallstreet Journal (Future of Everything Festival, New York, USA), Currents New Media Festival (Santa Fe, NM), the Center for Craft (North Carolina, USA), and Wave Farm Media (New York, USA).

## **PRESS KIT**

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