

ANNE KATHRIN ACHENBACH

German–American Artist · Textile & Social Practice

Andalusia, Spain · annekata.com

Achenbach's practice explores language, power, and collective memory through stitching, textiles, and asemic writing. Working with fabric, thread, paper, and ink, she uses stitching as mark-making that transforms textiles into fields of accumulated gestures — words dissolving into illegible marks that resist fixed meaning and censorship.

Her work draws on the long history of cloth as a carrier of hidden messages, protest, and cultural memory. Alongside studio work, Achenbach maintains a social art practice centered on mending and collective repair. Her ongoing project Make Mends Meet convenes gatherings where participants repair clothing together while sharing stories, treating repair as both a practical and symbolic act that strengthens the social fabric of communities.

SELECTED WORKS

Hanging on by a Thread, 2026

Embroidered American flag installation incorporating censored words

Borderline, 2025

Hand-stitched linen textile exploring division and language

Soft Letter, 2025

Asemic stitched writing on black cotton

RESIDENCIES

The Soil Factory — Artist Residency
Ithaca, New York · 2026 (upcoming)

The Saltonstall Foundation — Artist
Retreat

Ithaca, New York · 2024 / 2025

PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS

Make Mends Meet

Community mending gatherings ·
2023–2025

Cornell University, Becker House /
Global Development

Repair Culture Workshops · 2024–2025

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art

Community mending workshop · 2024

The Shape of Home

Participatory textile storytelling · 2024

Open House Mandala Community
Project

Ithaca College · 2023

PRESENTATIONS

International Transformative Learning
Conference

Siena, Italy · 2024

BACKGROUND

Originally trained in language education, Achenbach developed her artistic practice through independent exploration of textiles as a visual language.