**Icebreaker (2025)**

*«Many touches bring warmth. Will the ice respond?”*

Dominika Degtyareva, Jan Schwegler, Joya Gisèle Blarer

Digital Ideation Focus Information Technology, Digital Ideation Focus Design, Textile Design

Module: Crafting interactive narratives for art & design

**Personal Interest**

As a class, we explored the topic of exhaustion — its content and what aspects interested us most. Based on a shared interest in recovery, sleep, and rest, Lucas, Cat, Nika, and Jan formed a group.

From discussing our interests in more detail, two groups formed: Lucas and Cat, Nika and Jan. While Lucas and Cat were more interested in the state of lying down, rest, and sleep, Nika and Jan focused on working together and caring for an entity, perhaps with an element of play.

We then developed our concept around the narrative of working together to resist exhaustion. As a working claim, we called it "Together resisting exhaustion." We wanted an installation that would bring strangers together to work toward a shared goal. When visiting, it should be clear that one person alone cannot achieve the goal, or at least it would be very difficult. This should encourage people to ask for help and come together.

Later, Joya joined the group and was interested in creating a physical interaction. We rethought our interaction point and adapted our concept and visualization, while keeping the main narrative of bringing people together to achieve a higher goal as a group rather than alone.

**Work process**

We mainly worked with TouchDesigner, Arduino and some sensors, electricity, conductivity and wood.

The most challenging part was finding an idea that pleased not only us, but also the professors. We were burned out from talking, ideating and the process of forming groups based on our interests. It was the part the costed us the most time and energy. As soon as we had a general direction, everything else feel into place.

**Conclusion**

I think it was nice for all of us to collaborate and do something outside of what we normally do. It was also exciting to get to know how the others find ideas and their pattern of thinking.

-> We have a very detailed documentation of the process [here](https://janschwegler.github.io/di-CO_128/) where we covered challenges, decisions we made and materials we experimented with.