

## **Abstract — Art as Resistance: Reflective Design in Times of Technological Power**

As an experienced service designer working across the EU and Norway for more than two decades, I have focused on creating large-scale systems for the public sector that use new technologies to transform how people interact with services. While these systems aim to improve efficiency and accessibility, they also reveal how design can shape—and sometimes constrain—human behavior. My role is to work with desirability in these projects, ensuring that technology serves people, not the other way around.

Alongside this professional practice, I engage in a series of artistic explorations—*Design as a Religious Practice*, *Madame H.P. Blavatsky*, *First Aid Kit for Disillusioned People*, and *System of Forgotten Things*—that critically reflect on the social and emotional effects of technological progress. These works invite people to question authority, resist passive acceptance, and reflect on the ethical consequences of their own actions.

Through this intersection of service design and art, I explore how creative practice can cultivate awareness, empathy, and responsibility. This talk argues that art serves as a vital form of resistance—helping communities recognize the moral implications of innovation and reminding us that true progress requires reflection, care, and curiosity.

### **Keywords:**

- Artistic inquiry
- Service design
- Critical reflection
- Societal awareness

### **Disciplinary Field**

Christin Staubo works at the intersection of artistic research and service design, exploring how creative and reflective practices can challenge conformity, question systems of authority, and foster ethical, human-centered approaches to societal innovation

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### **Mini-CV**

At the heart of my practice lies the fusion of human-centered design, artistic inquiry, and strategic leadership, developed over more than 20 years as an innovator, educator, and consultant. I lead the service design program at Kristiania University College and run Staubo

Design AS, a consultancy transforming public sector services through design thinking. My experience spans collaborations with large global companies and design work in India, the USA, the UK, and France. My artistic research investigates how creative practice can act as a reflective and critical force within systemic design, fostering curiosity, empathy, and socially responsible innovation.

**Format of presentation:**

Physical objects from the projects described above, powerpoint