In Jörg Wickram’s novel Der Goldtfaden (The Golden Thread), published in 1557, Lionel, the male protagonist, cuts open his chest with a small penknife and inserts a golden thread into it. The painful procedure on a bodily level expresses the sorrow and grief Lionel feels after having been rejected by Angeline, the object of his affection. The golden thread, which Lionel now keeps closest to his heart, once was a precious gift from Angeline. The title symbol of Wickram’s novel thus appears as a metaphor of love and lovesickness, suffering and redemption, dissection and reconnection which is also closely related to and entangled with the ‘texture’ from which it originates – the literary text itself. Consequently, the talk is going to explore the manifold implications of the token of the thread in both Lionel’s story and Wickram’s text. In doing so, it will discuss notions of textile and text, incision and inscription, somatics and semiotics, all of which render the thread a ‘mise en abyme’ of the medium it embodies and represents. Furthermore, the talk will consider aspects of a ‘cultural history of cutting and texture’ as prevalent in the late Middle Ages and Early Modernity, shedding light on anthropological, theological, medical and inter-textual perspectives inherent to the topic.