

Distant Feeling(s) {comments}

Voice 1, Voice 2, Artificial Voice (?)

**Voice 1:**

open / closed  
appeasement  
entering a side-space

**Voice 2:**

suspended time  
impression of discovering a digital life, a separate entity, especially through sound  
feeling of proximity  
complicity

**Voice 1:**

The sound keeps you in touch with others, it mobilizes attention, it reactivates your feeling of presence to others.

**Voice 2:**

The sound environment binds the whole together, one has the impression that it is one common space, also because the sound of all participants is diffused for all the same as one single source.

**Voice 1:**

intrusion  
dependence - interdependence  
omnipresence  
distance - proximity

**Voice 2:**

common ritual  
quasi-absurd experience  
individual journey, in relation to the other  
building a common ritual through a quasi-absurd experience

**Voices 1 and 2** (not together, can be done in edit) :

I felt/heard your nervousness and unsettling movements, which for me was like trying to solve a problem. The problem being the chaos, and settling in with that.  
I had the feeling of being in a space that is nowhere.

**Voice 1:**

Belonging to a group of silent people, whose presence permits to forget the sensation of being ridiculous or *poseuse*...  
Purposeless?  
...to BE together for 15 min, just BEING...  
Just so nice to do nothing with a globally dispersed group of people.  
... all these strangers agree to close their eyes together and show their vulnerabilities to each other, or at least show themselves vulnerable.  
Things were louder than people.  
Things - Louder  
People - Silent  
VULNERABILITY

**Voice 2:**

15 minutes against the everyday digital restlessness, building a sensorial invisible fabric that gathers. A silent and blind encounter across each other in an electronic communion.

To experience our vulnerability as a cement for the common is a way to resist speed, performance, power ; all these values that predominate in our societies.

**Voice 1:**

I was waiting for silence to fall, after the chatter. when it occurred, there was no embrace, but a faint sensation of sharing a silent small reprieve over the constant noise and anger of the world. It is the strangest experience, to be *alonesilentblind* with assumed others somewhere out there.

**Voice 2:**

the willingness to suspend one's belief in the knowledge of the virtual proximity and connectiveness of the others. It is that knowledge that can be convincing enough to suspend disbelief and thus be silently wrapped in the telematic embrace.

**Voice 1:**

the others embrace the virtual proximity that suspend their knowledge and simultaneous disbelief and willingly get wrapped in a convincing connectiveness...

**Virtual Voice:**

By closing your eyes you're stripped to just 'being'. Following the rules of not speaking and not looking you are left in a place of communitary lonesomeness that continues to define the everyday world of infinite information and surveillance.

**Voice 1:**

It made me think of a research that showed that certain groups of animals, birds for example, consolidate their bond, their community, by making themselves vulnerable (they perform for example a dance at a time and a place that expose them to their predators) : and those who do not participate in this ritual leave the community.

**Voice 2:**

we were building a sensory, emotional heritage by this experience.

**Voice 1:**

an organic acceptance of silence?

**Voice 2:**

Was it machine feedback... that mechanical clicking and beeping? ... that mechanical clicking and beeping?

**Voice 1:**

machines conversing across the network only when the noisy humans finally shut up!

**Voice 2:**

Like the toys that come alive in the magic toyshop when the children are asleep. I wanted it to get louder and louder till the whole world rang out ...

**Voice 1:**

WE MACHINES ARE HERE AND WE ARE COMMUNICATING!

**Voice 2:**

this is not about being mindful, or meditating, and rather about sensing and embodying and being present. And in this state of being present we may feel connected to others or we may not – if we are not, then what happens in that isolation?

**Voice 1:**

I felt light, as if I were in a field of light, changing, living light, not with human beings, and probably because that frightened me I tried to visualize the others I knew, to imagine, how, where they were, I tried to make something I could understand of what I felt – as if they were familiar to me.

**Voice 2:**

The “silence” gave space to the sounds of animals, objects and machines. Close to the end I felt that I had actually entered the space that we were sharing together with others.

**Voice 1:**

it constantly made me feel that I was there because they were also there, suddenly instead of facing them it was about these silent bodies “looking” at something else.

**Voice 2:**

We know we are potentially watched.

**Voice 1:**

I gave myself in confidence to the machine, I did not think it could bug.

We were a sort of resistants: we closed our eyes, we did not talk, we spend time to be together, and, that is the opposite of what we usually do on the net. If someone was watching us (and someone or something always is) she could have taken us for resistants ...

**Voice 2:**

the intimate space of silence is awkward.

the absence of time and space is endless and infinite

**Virtual Voice:**

Sweet

take and receive

Resistance

community

sensitive area

trust

panopticon

capture

**Voice 1:**

a very concrete experience – just the light flickering of the in- and out-going participants shimmering through my eyelids provoking an altered state?

**Voice 2:**

a great state of presence to oneself, to others and to an imaginary public

**Voice 1 and 2 (not at the same time):**

rest

intentioned, meaningful

meditating

in between

breathing

suspension

Relaxation

Sharing

Transformation

**Voice 2:**

we produce uninteresting data for Artificial Intelligence robots

**Voice 1:**

the sensation of intimacy is never "real," it is based on the willingness to believe and to allow closeness to become "real" despite separation.

/

feeling an unknown

/

feeling a common imagination

perception of a void full of presence

perception of a silence invested by technology

perception of a reality mixing human and machine

gift

tenderness

inversion

**Voice 2:**

once the network is silenced of human conversation, all that is left is the hum of networked devices, the “nervous system” of the Net.

**Voice 1:**

[It is] an inner journey of images, desires, dreams, feelings of sadness and happiness

[It is] a special...a special moment in time.

[It is] a pact.

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- Adapted from comments from different *Distant Feeling(s)* iterations:

Participants of Lab # 11: *Screens: projection surfaces and self projections. What does the screen do with us?* From Monday 13 to Saturday 18 may 2019, Cie in Vitro, laboNRV, Les Subsistances Lyon. and Zara Rodríguez Prieto, James Cunningham, Camille Bloomfield, Ruth Catlow, Daniel Pinheiro, Annie Abrahams, Lisa Parra, Johannes Birringer, Randall Packer, Nicolaas Schmidt Muriel Piqué.

- Remix by Annie Abrahams, Daniel Pinheiro

- Recorded by Ruth Catlow and Marc Garrett for Distant Feeling(s) #6 iteration - performed live at Video Vortex #12, Sep 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 at ‘Spazju Kreattiv’ – Valletta, Malta