

## Digital Silence – Reflective Interview with Brašnicková Aneta- Full Transcribe Version

*Starts Recording .....*

Anastasia Lata: Hello.... how are you? Thank you so much for accepting my invitation about doing thing interview...we are going to talk about your experience of the Digital Silence performance...

Aneta Brašnicková: Sure...

Anastasia Lata: So, I want to start by asking if you can remember a little bit what happened and what were you asked to do?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah, I can remember...I can remember because not much really happened (*laughs*)...I can remember that we were split into two different Zoom rooms, with a lot of different people that I didn't know and we were asked to short off disappear from the screen and stand next to the screen or something...for like five minutes or so...and then we were asked to do anything basically, have or mics on and our cameras on, so we could like just be on the screen and be there while everyone else doing their thing...it was like for an hour so...I don't remember the time exactly...and after that I think we were asked to go outside as well for a bit I am not sure...uhm...yeah and after that we came back to the room where we all gathered...and like try to talk a bit about it, but not really and then we got back to the main room and it was up to anyone to...um...when they want to leave and that was it...I am not sure if I remember everything...

Anastasia Lata: Can you remember then a little bit what happened at this one hour, being in Zoom and not being in Zoom at the same time?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah, what I did for example...I remember what I did...So, it was quite late in the evening, I think, and you know I was very tired, and I thought ok well now I am suppose yeah, I don't know do something.... but I was not feeling really comfortable just being on the camera and do my things...and all the time I was thinking I could have gone to bed, but I didn't want to do that on the camera. So, I just sat next to my computer on the floor...I actually like sitting on floor so that's fine...I sat on the floor and I was just drawing the whole time. I was just like using the time to draw, but I remember I also had a lot of stuff to do for Uni that I had on my computer and do at the time...so, I was bit like annoyed all the time because I could spend the time with doing that...and I knew after the performance

finishes, I still have to do that before I go to sleep...uhm yeah...so, I was just drawing the entire time and I was not on the camera, because I didn't want to be...

Anastasia Lata: So, during that time you were more focused on yourself rather than hearing what was happening to the other people?

Aneta Brašnicková: I mean, I heard others...like I heard noises and stuff, didn't really focused that much. I was in my student's dorm that time and I heard everything from any other room basically, so it was pretty much the same, as hearing like my roommates from their rooms...so, it didn't really make much difference because it was just everyday noises, noises that I heard everywhere...yeah so, I didn't really pay much attention, because I couldn't even know what was coming from the computer and what was like my roommates....

Anastasia Lata: So, the sounds were mixed?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah.

Anastasia Lata: You said that you were drawing and that you were more focused to yourself, and you didn't want to be visible to the camera, because I think you were also asked not to be in the camera, and just to hear the noises...

Aneta Brašnicková: Yes...so at the beginning we were asked to like stand next to the camera, to just like let our room to be seen, and then like after five minutes we were asked to come back to do whatever on the camera basically...so, I decided I didn't want to...

Anastasia Lata: So, you didn't try to make any noise...you tried not be visible to the camera, so you also tried not to make any noise?

Aneta Brašnicková: Well not really...I didn't try to make any noise...well I don't really make a lot of noise on my own (*laughs*)...in general so I was just like acting as I would, like even if the camera wasn't on. I mean if the camera wasn't on, I would probably be sitting by the table or like on my bed. I didn't want to be there...so, yeah...

Anastasia Lata: What was the reason attending the performance...what did you expect actually?

Aneta Brašnicková: I was expecting a bit more...hm how to say it...a bit more involvement with like the digital space and not just like what it was...I think I was expecting a bit more...yeah, I think that was the whole think, because I don't really research it before, but it was given to us form the University or like recommended...and

I wanted to go as many things as I could, to be involved you know...and I think I was accepting to be more involved...

Anastasia Lata: But weren't you involved by being all together in Zoom and create this space of sounds...?

Aneta Brašnicková: I mean it was like supposed to be creating space you know, but I don't feel like it was really creating space...it was just like we were in our spaces but we weren't creating anything or like that's what I felt...

Anastasia Lata: So, if someone asked you what was your role during the performance or your engagement during the performance, what would you tell them?

Aneta Brašnicková: Hmm...I would tell them that I just distanced myself from it, I guess...because I didn't really see it as a performance to be honest...because I think in order to be performance, then it needs to be some performance involved...or like some art or something...and not just turning on your camera. I don't want to sound rude but...(laughs) it was very expensive as well for a performance were you just do nothing so...

Anastasia Lata: I mean weren't your computer performing...in a way?

*(Both laughing)*

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah... you know I don't really think my computer really wants to perform...

Anastasia Lata: But then, you obviously feeling that you didn't pay that much attention to the performance because you felt like it was not actually a performance...so, did anything stood out for you?

Aneta Brašnicková: Uhm... *(big pause)* ...I don't think so...I just remember, it's been a long time now, but I just remember I was very annoyed with it, because I felt like it wasn't...you know like...well not let me rephrase that. I think basically you can do so much more, so much better with digital space, than just letting your camera and mics on with other people or whatever...yeah, it's just seems to me like a bit unprepared. Because it's like ok, this is what I do on an online class, you know I just sit there... *(laughs)* ...you know... and I really didn't want to be in online class again...and I understand it was supposed to be like meant for us like sharing space and there is something very interesting and intimate when you see people in their space behaving as they do, but I don't think for that it needs to... I think for that, it could be like that, but not for such a long time or you

know...it was a bit of waste of time to me. I don't like wasting my time, so when I go see a performance or when I get involved in something like that, I just like to think of that as something that gave something to me...you know... I gained something from that...and I didn't feel like I did...

Anastasia Lata: You don't feel like you gained something?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah, I felt like I lost my time. I don't want to sound bitter or like I don't want to seem like I didn't understand the performance, cause I think I did...

Anastasia Lata: So, what did you understand...I mean you said that you understand the performance so...?

Aneta Brašnicková: Well, I think like for me...like the "understand" meant was that it was there for us to share, to be sharing space and also sharing silence...which alright that's fine, because silence can speak for itself. But I think it could be done differently, or it could just be better or I don't know like...for me like it was just like ok...anyone can do this in my online class for free (*laughs*)...

Anastasia Lata: So, you really liked it as a concept, but you think it lacked in execution?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yes, I think so...and you know I sit in silence with my computer a lot during the day. I don't need to add another hour to that...

Anastasia Lata: So, you were a little bit influenced because you had been using a lot your computer and sitting in silence ...

Aneta Brašnicková: Yes, you know because since online school and everything, I've been very considerate of my time that I spend online, that I spend on my computer. So, I try to value what I want to spend my time on, because it feels like I am sitting all the time, I am doing stuff on the internet and on my computer all the time...so, when it is something else, like a performance also on the computer, I really like to consider if it is not going to waste my time...give me something you know...and I thought it would, but it didn't. So, I think I was disappointed because I could spend my time much better...because at the time I was just like...I didn't have much time for anything at the time.

Anastasia Lata: So, because I get that you got disappointed, you have this feeling of the performance not being enough...did this experience change the way you are going to participate in the

next online performative conversations or performative conversations in general?

Aneta Brašnicková: So, I don't think so. You know I don't like...I don't try to be affected by one thing I see. I always try to considerate everything for what it is. So, when we got an email for Building Conversation to do another thing with them, it was the phone call, I signed up for that because it sounded very interesting. But unfortunately, the girls I was partnered with, like got ill at the last minute, so they didn't have a partner for me, which was a shame but understandable.

Anastasia Lata: So, you didn't do Distant thoughts?

Aneta Brašnicková: No, I didn't do that, which was as shame, cause I though it was much better or like sounded more interesting...because you actually talk...

Anastasia Lata: Have more intimate connection...

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah, have a more connection exactly. So, like I don't thing [Digital Silence] gave me like negative insight on any future online performances or like digital performances...I' m just a person who really wants to consider if something is worth see or participating it...yeah, but that doesn't mean that I might not get involved with another Building Conversation project...

Anastasia Lata: Yeah, that's nice...I think this performance made you realize that "yes I can be disappointed by one performance, but it doesn't mean that I have to close myself, I need to be open to similar performances and see what I can take from them"?

Aneta Brašnicková: Yeah, exactly because you can't base your opinion on a whole genre just from one thing...you know...

Anastasia Lata: Yes, I get it. So, is there anything else you want to share about the performance or building conversation online in general?

Aneta Brašnicková: (*laughs*)...umm...no I think I have said quite a lot ...

(Both laughing)

Anastasia Lata: Ok, I think that your memory really works, and that I have enough to work on...thank you so much for this.

Aneta Brašnicková: That's ok no worries.

*Stops recording...*