IN CONVERSATION WITH EMMANUELLE WAECKERLE // PROFOUND SOUND 2020

Olivia: Could you take me through a summary of your workshop?

Emmanuelle: It takes the form of practicing & activating a score, which in this case, we use the images as the score, and to activate this, we use a metaphorical breathing in and breathing out process.

…We take for granted that images are silent, yet our experiences in life aren't silent, this is about connecting the two- the fact that sound & vision are not separate. This is exiled through a photograph.

O: And who can sign up to this workshop?

E: I first did this with non-performers at the Tate. The workshop is really open to anyone- especially those who are interested in photography, art, music- amateur or professional- as well as those with a general interest in text or graphic scores, or the interplay between text, image, and sound.

The idea of the workshop is to indeed work individually but also collectively, there is space for both in which we all develop our own strategies based on simple exercises, that's why I ask participants to bring their own image.

O: What is the step by step process?

There are 3 parts to the workshop, in the 1st part we practice deep listening & breathing, open up the senses, and warm up collectively…

The 2nd part is where each person finds their own strategies to breath in and out in tune with the image, and question, what does it evoke for us? It's not about creating a soundtrack for the image, but it is about really trying to see what images trigger or provoke in us. And so, in this part we tune into that image, and put on paper what we feel- gestures, emotions- anything.

The 3rd part is when we practice turning that silent speech into a sound or music, and to create an intimate connection between image & what they may sound like.

Then comes the performance part. This is when I select 1 or 2 images that people will have brought to make sound to, then bring in 5 or 6 durational images which I have chosen specifically for Folkestone. Nobody has to perform if they do not wish

to. There is no pre-determined expectation, we are using simple strategies that can be used by anybody, based on what images illicit in us.

O: Can you tell me a little on more about the breath part?

E: The breath part works in stages, so the breath is used as a compositional tool, we breath in and listen for up to 10 seconds whilst looking at the image, and breath out with what we saw on paper for up to 20 seconds. One must take pleasure in it. We then read this aloud. Within this, it's about deep listening, by making room for ourselves as well as room for others.

O: How long have you been doing these workshops?

So I work for UCA, and it's exciting that this is happening in our space! These workshops are about 2 years old, so this is the 3rd or 4th time I've done this particular workshop. I first starting in doing performance art workshops, called bodythought bodytalk. I work and have worked with using the body as a tool and as a subject of exploration. I've also worked in a lot of festivals. It's all about the relationship we have with ourselves and with each other, in order to help loosen our minds, or tap into a consciousness that may make somebody feel a little freer- through using repetition exercises for example. I have also hosted voice workshops too.

… My work is about finding gentle ways, tools and a grammar to push our boundaries, and explore space, time, scale with our body. And it's also about questioning what we take for granted- that which is silent. It is deep individual work, but by doing it collectively- we learn from each other and to trust each other, and also how to be together differently outside of the work / school etc mode.

O: What is your part in the process?

E: My part in it is to lead by not leading, by giving space for participants to stretch themselves without noticing they are. The sound created will be recorded, so after I will add and synchronised the recording to the images. And this time, I'm working with a different set of images - so I'm very excited!