

# On Sound, Collecting & Listening



CD oracle solo practice  
questions of...  
female voice  
private space

[apple eating]  
[loud][impolite]

REC [female voice singing]  
[recorded voice]  
[cutlery in background]  
[birds]

CD [whispering in background]  
away for 2 days  
new part of practice  
proposition to people in group  
relatives + oracle practice  
mothers > exploring

CD [voice female  
singing background]  
> telepathic listening  
> listen to the past  
shared stories of the past  
> listening to the future  
hopes/concerns  
> living in different countries  
different types of listening

JM what does it mean to listen  
beyond physical borders?  
a voice you know well but is not here

throwing a mother into the practice  
uncomfortable place  
unknown  
risk  
why?

potential for change for the relation  
not being in the same space  
conversation in group after  
actually needs different preparation  
not ready for what is opened up  
future work to be done  
not just throwing

CD oracle solo practice, people  
scoring in the background  
female voice and space  
public space  
private space

[crushhhh][someone taking a  
loud bite of an apple]

REC [birds chirping]  
[voice whispers, starts to sing]  
une série d'instructions à suivre  
[says the beautiful French voice]

CD they were away for two days

telepathic practice with relatives  
oracle asked their mothers

[CD is speaking very clear and soft]  
we listened to the past...  
sharing stories  
...and to the future  
hopes  
concerns  
research into different  
types of listening

JM listening to something imaginary  
but a voice

between physical space  
there is this interesting space  
sometimes uncomfortable

taking a risk

but potential for — FRICTION

we were not prepared for  
the space it opens up  
beautiful things happened

REC  
CD timing  
&  
mother verbalise no? just  
in the head  
waves  
across the planet  
mother you're mad  
6:30 your time  
mother I start to think my tele-  
pathic thoughts to you and vocalise

SJ I jump in  
we went to the farm  
collect sounds  
do things together  
not only talking activities  
dig a hole  
a lot of recordings

REC [metal sound]  
SJ are you available to dig a hole?  
CH okay  
DT you need to put a lot of pressure  
JM I like this one  
SJ can you bring the shovel?

[metal sound]  
[birds]

SJ yellow is heavy  
in between ponds  
all the turds  
JM he's hurt  
SJ crippled black swan  
deers eating trees  
where to dig?

CH [guitar]  
SJ enough to fit a person in  
[talking, talking, instructing]

REC [voice of CD's mom on the phone]  
CD across the ocean, across the planet

[CD laughs]

6 o'clock your time, 11 o'clock my time  
my telepathic thoughts  
delivered to you

SJ we went to this farm  
collect sound  
doing things together

I came up with the idea to DIG a hole

REC [sound from tools]  
SJ are you available to dig a hole?  
we are under the tree  
DT this one is the best

JM I think I like that one  
I think they're all fun

[cracking, murmuring]

SJ we go in between the ponds  
very fresh, kind of liquory

crippled black swan

yeah... where to dig?  
[SJ talks about vegetation  
and digging]  
horizontal or vertical  
[his instructions are  
ruffled by guitar sounds]

CD all this grass  
ah! Davide is getting through it  
that's great!

DT ah! a hole

[phone ringing?]

DT [swearing in Italian]  
 CH [guitar]  
 DT we do the shape first  
 SJ yeah [instructing]  
 CD Davide is doing it  
 the pitch is great  
 that's great because we put it back in  
 JM beautiful worm  
 DT [calling]  
 JM talking about worms  
 CD what the fuck is this handle?  
 oracle[talking]  
 [sound of digging]  
 CH sounds like one of the male deer  
 who has most holes in a body?  
 JM synchronised digging  
 [sound of digging]

CH we dug a hole and the hole need-  
 ed to be filled up with water

take a pedal boat to get water  
 a lot of fun

[water sound]

3 people and 2 people on a pedal-boat

DT [laughing]  
 CH this is where the water comes out  
 collecting water for Steven's hole

[water running sound]  
 [bucket filling sound]  
 [talking in background]  
 [waterfall sound]

CH we're getting back to  
 shore with the water  
 [water sound]  
 [birds]

CD -It's fantastic!  
 no don't!  
 DT si si si  
 [DT talking in Italian]

CD what the fuck is this handle?  
 [sounds of a shovel]  
 [there is some hard labour]  
 CH sounds like one of the male deers

[DT laughs and digs]

CH I've got a story of...  
 water for the hole  
 sound of clean water  
 muddy water underneath  
 take a pedal boat to get  
 some clear water  
 [nasty laughing]  
 the sound of fresh water  
 from one pond to another

[sound of a spring/  
 water in a basin]

[muddy water sounds heavier]

[sound of a deer... or is  
 it something else?]

[PLOP]

DT okay  
 better to play the moments  
 where we were talking  
 I think it's nice to play back the  
 moment where we were having fun  
 I was the only one laughing  
 maybe we can explain what happened

DT okay  
 [DT wants to introduce 'the  
 moments when we were talking  
 and having fun']  
 I was laughing HAHahaha  
 but your laugh [Christian]  
 is a silent one

\*REC

DT you bike on this boat?  
 radar?

\*REC

CD RADAR  
 radarrrrr  
 radar

CH rudder  
 DT he draws me in the stream

DT radár !

DT [fun]  
 crash against the side of the pond

DT crash against the side of the pond  
 go and back?  
 forth and back?

JM [fun]  
 crashing in the other boat

the crash didn't produce  
 an amazing sound

[CD laughs]

CD feedback

CD feedback feedback  
 we are in a precarious situation  
 the speaker is projecting

DT microphone next to speaker  
 microphone to loudspeakers

SJ this is your interest  
 DT yes

SJ this is really your interest no [Davide]?  
 speakers and microphone

SJ farting in speaker

DT yeah it's two of the things  
 I work around  
 farting in the microphone

DT quite a lot of farts

CD very healthy cooking

CD cooking

\*REC [birds]

\*REC

CD oregano  
 carrots with rosemary  
 baked in industrial oven  
 witloof  
 chicon  
 onions cut in thirds  
 the rings sit neatly on baking tray  
 correction

CD baked in the industrial oven  
 witloof  
 chicon  
 baked  
 the rings sit neatly in...  
 correction

JM sage  
 CD dipped in beer

JM carrots in oven with sage  
 CD dipped in pois chiches  
 es flour and fried  
 DT salvia impanata  
 where there is sage you  
 need to make pané, crumb  
 DT go to microphone piece  
 not sure what it will sound like

microphone in studio  
 I will walk outside with it without  
 signal getting interrupted

[reconnecting microphone]  
 [DT goes outside]

DT I'm gonna give numbers  
 people will stay in studio  
 you at home will know if I'm away  
 or not

SJ which way are you going?  
 DT to Brouckère

SJ for those who know, to the right

DT how far can people still be together?  
 we need silence for this  
 ciao  
 maybe I go inside as well  
 in corridor of nadine building  
 the signal is strong  
 going out now for real

Audi car 1, 2, 3, 4,  
 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11  
 counting footsteps

signal is still good  
 37, 38, 39, 40

in BXL cars stop when you  
 are on zebra stripes  
 54, 55

[microphone slowly dies]

dipped them in pois chiches  
 so beautiful  
 [DT talks about food in Italian]  
 [gets less poetic  
 and more serious]

DT we have a radio microphone  
 here in the studio  
 I will go out  
 I'm gonna switch on the mic now  
 hey, it works!  
 so I'm gonna walk outside  
 see how far I can go

SJ which direction are you walking?  
 out the door, right?

[SJ wants to make sure listeners  
 who know nadine understand]

SJ bye

DT hallo?  
 yes I just changed my plan  
 I'm going back in the nadine room  
 HEYY I'm back!

SJ talk a bit about cheese

[DT counting]  
 [counting his steps, and  
 switches to Italian sometimes]

[counting his step a bit louder]

[now his voice starts  
 to disappear]

[disrupted]

4th WABook Conversation #4

20/05/2021

DT it's working  
 can I get in construction site?  
 [signal drop]  
 DT skip?  
 [drumming sound]

DT they say it's dead  
 they want to stop  
 they say signal is back  
 trying to go out construction site  
 let's go faster  
 cool  
 done it

61, 62, 63, 64

SJ we lost Davide  
 we try to visually tell him he's gone

DT [counting in Italian]  
 bravo

SJ he's back  
 how far?

DT maybe 400 meters  
 someone says the broadcast is off

SJ I started  
 break for live audience in the room  
 it says connecting  
 did all the settings  
 [piano playing]

CD it's from the beginning

SJ streaming service restart OBS  
 CD cigarette break  
 JM just play music for the live audience

[piano playing]  
 ? streaming problems  
 after 30-40 minutes

CD conversation 2  
 JM wifi?  
 OBS?  
 what happened last time?

CD you liking it so far?  
 CH breakage in the wifi is the problem  
 CD it's working Loes

[but you hear footsteps?  
 he back already?]

DT they say it's dead  
 ah, they say ja, the signal is back

[DT is at a construction site]

COOL!  
 done it!

sixty-three, sixty-f  
 SJ we lost Davide  
 he's gone from our...

[disrupted by Italian counting]  
 [DT is getting tired]  
 [applause] bravo bravo bravo  
 [tired voice of DT  
 is a bit higher]

[classic piano]

DT music break!  
 they are trying to connect in between  
 [door of nadine opens]  
 here it just says connecting

SJ streaming device bla bla bla  
 CD music break, cigarette break

[classic piano]  
 it's definitely a break  
 so, what do we do?

SJ I restart the program  
 Loes was checking it  
 I'm connected to DIANE  
 [SJ pronounces it like  
 in Twin Peaks]  
 we can do a hot spot

CD it's working Loes!

[sounds like cars passing]

SJ we are back  
sorry for the interruption  
internet problem  
hope you heard experiment  
with Davide's microphone  
CD it's a piece  
DT indeed  
I also made an audio piece with it  
also made  
2 microphones or 2 channels  
at same point  
left channel stops  
anyway it's about broadcast, so  
I thought a nice thing to add to  
radio and how things can fail  
SJ and then one connection stopped  
DT then it's good  
we leave it to the inauguration  
so who do we do

REC euh euh euh euh euh euh euh  
[humming sound and birds]  
[high voice humming up and down]

CD [whispering reading]  
JM [singing vocalising]

CD that was a beautiful one

SJ I need to explain  
humming in the hole we dug  
microphone in second hole  
SJ sounds from microphone  
one meter in the ground  
singing in second hole

DT we realised nice space resonance  
we should have explored more

SJ two ladies in a hole  
guys recording  
oracle vocalising  
two people  
the ladies of oracle

SJ we are back again!  
dear listeners  
we had a problem with what  
else then the internet?

SJ oh it was a piece?  
excusez-moi  
DT starting from one spot, running  
you can hear only the mi-  
crophone that was...

broadcast radio

how they can something fail  
we were off the streaming  
it was a double cut

REC [murmuring choir]  
[low male voice] [round lips]  
[now the mouth slight open] [yawn]  
I am hiding behind

CD my smile does not exist

[CD laughs]

SJ us humming in the hole we just dug  
[SJ is really proud  
about the hole]  
Justine starts to sing in  
the second hole

DT there was a nice resonance

SJ two ladies in a hole  
the guys are standing  
around recording it  
I should have said people, not ladies  
the ladies of oracle

DT what were the holes made for?  
never explained

SJ 1m by 1m  
deep large

1 meter  
1 cubic meter

we didn't understand why  
we need to play back recordings  
only last day we figured out ourselves

he never talked to us  
what the hole was  
through his passion for sauna

CH not only a hole  
but also metal

CH there was not only the hole...  
but also other elements  
[SJ is talking about  
making a trench]

JM blowing in metal tube  
SJ I cannot scoop that out  
so far so good  
two holes

JM sound of a blowing... tube?  
blowed tube

? what did you make us do?

SJ I'm a painter  
was trying to make an audio work  
listener is following building  
process without builder  
knowing what they are doing  
slowly reveal?

SJ I am a painter so I wanted to make  
an audio piece  
wandering

slowly reveal the total function

no

no, I want

sounds from broadcast

CD next element  
[cutting sound]  
25 m of copper tubing 18mm  
unroll this coils of copper tubing  
and then strip it with Stanley  
knife of its rubber casing  
[sound of cutting]

CD can I say the next element  
that was brought in?  
25 meters of copper tubing  
enroll this 25 meters  
and then we had to strip it  
a very small Stanley knife  
[cutting noise]

CD try to straighten it out

difficult

CH and then  
third step with funnel that broke

SJ it was all a bit wet  
rain sunshine  
CH rubber boots

SJ shovel in wet sand  
CH we had rubber boots  
and I made a trench

[JM reads a letter  
by Michel Yang]

[JM reads a letter  
by Michel Yang]

REC  
SJ fill it with salt  
let's straighten it out

REC  
SJ let's straighten it out

REC [singing in background]

REC [scores of a woman who seems  
to be alone, far away]  
[tickling vibrations]  
[is she alone? or does  
she have company?]  
[or is it her voice getting  
more wild?]

CD that's 10, 11, 12

SJ so maybe we can switch to  
another project in the farm

[music playing]  
[guitar music playing]  
[humming sound]

[guitar]  
[cracking branches]  
[crackling fire]  
[guitar sliding]

[JM oracling]  
[rains sound]  
[fire burning?]

[humming by JM]

[it's funny but strong]  
[I's kaa fabs couuuu]  
[mmmmmmmmmmmm]  
[ting ting ting]  
[alarm mode]

[vegetables cutting]

[footsteps]  
[someone cutting vegetables]  
[cabbage?]  
[someone has a good  
chopping technique]

[alarm]  
SJ did you write that?

SJ did you write that on the farm?  
we are talking about the telepath...

DT hey  
CD when I'm taking sound  
change place of the listener  
we all listening differently  
when you listen with your  
ears you cut it out  
I like that  
microphone dismantles  
our listening skills

DT hey  
CD I like to change places  
we all listen very differently  
how much you cut out when you listen  
in the kitchen was a fridge that  
was very loud but we cut that out

JM no  
we were going back to  
beginning of the transmission  
when I was listening to my mom  
listening to breath of loved one

JM listening to the breath of a loved one  
struggling for the oracle  
practice from afar

on the farm  
what sounds are already there  
inscribed with the landscape  
sounds from before  
people we've been with

what sounds are inscribed  
in the landscape  
as we are walking through  
this farm landscape  
people we have been with  
about past times

reminded me when  
listening to my mom  
text that Michel [Yang] once send us

text that Michel has written

typing listening  
going through emails of Michel  
passed away  
at the farm  
share the space  
listening to so much more there  
all sources you can listen to  
past, present experiences of listening  
memories of Michel

listening search  
e-mail  
sickness at the farm  
for us, we are listening to  
so much more there

text that came about listening  
telepathic sound

interference of past and present  
my mind was filled with  
memories of Michel

listening to internal de-  
mands inside landscape

surrounding sounds  
listening to the inside

smelling, experiencing

feeling, smelling, listening

	I tried to keep listening to my body more deeply listening with skin	I try to keep listening to my body listening to oneself, and others skin, spirit, viscerals, smells	clearly defined response	not the best context now it would sound SO F*CKING INSTRUCTIONAL
SJ	how do you relate to listening Davide?	how do you relate to listening Davide?	ambiguities	
DT	play back a piece	we can play a piece	understanding = property of listening	f*cking hell give me a break
SJ	thinking listeners are listening as well	we hope that our listeners listen well	another process at work conflict zone listening = intervention coproduction of the sound position of listener way for realising agency power	it's a conflict zone for me
DT	I'm lost the word means so many things	it has so many meanings		realising my own agency power
SJ	with oracle timer vocalising	what we did with oracle was start vocalising	[SJ tries to get in]	
	background sounds when Justine was reading		SJ I was touched by the atmosphere we did experiment	SJ I was also touched by not so much the words but the tone the atmosphere in this room sound of the speaker
	evoking a spirit different layer	evoking some sort of spirit now there is a next layer	we got a speaker between our backs	and the body of the other
	now I'm touched by it	now I am touched by it	we were listening to body of the other	move through the space
	then I was thinking about art, about instructions the person who perceives the artwork needs to listen as well your work absorbed that	[instructions]	move through space with the other	
	[CD laughing]	[CD laughs]	DT maybe we can play piece after I explain	DT I'll explain what we did together
DT	memory – landscape – ears – somatic – body	there's different ways to relate to listening ears somatic level	try out	
	different ways about listening		Back to Back 1	it's called Back to Back 1 speaker
	confused one into the other		2 people starting back to back very close speaker in between	
	difficult to define precisely	it's difficult for me to define exactly	speaker projecting diffusing	the speaker is projecting diffusing white noise ah f*** my English is terrible [SSSSHORW] backs absorb sound
	comes from practice	through PRACTICE I try to ask this question to myself	they have to sit on floor & stand up without white noise changing their backs absorb the sound	these people have to sit on the floor lentamente... slowly
	how do I consider listening?		they have to move very slowly pay attention to soundbalance listening to the body	
	if I would say the answer		DT people reading to dance I don't know other approaches	DT it's a topic I don't know very well I don't want to speculate about things I don't know

CD play the piece

DT The Sound of White Noise <sup>2</sup>  
[link to it] split in two channels  
here one  
constant white noise + instruction  
listener performs the instruction  
introduction: reading  
The Sound of White Noise  
audio radio piece  
white noise diffused in the room  
9 minutes  
ciao  
[sound ambulance]

REC [French voice instruction]

bruit blanc

arrange your volume

look the white noise in the eyes

open your hands

cover your ears slowly

tu m'entends  
take your hands of your ears

go 1 m from the speakers

...

hold the white noise

REC [sound of a whistling kettle]  
[shshshshshshsh]  
[movements]  
[door opening]  
[sand? salt? going through tubes]

[whispering]

CD yeah, play the piece

DT The Sound of White Noise <sup>2</sup>  
9 min.  
the one we have here is MONO  
SJ MONO

DT the listener has to perform the instructions  
text I wrote  
audio piece  
series of listening instructions  
performed at home  
in relation to the sound system  
invites the listeners to interrupt  
modify the stream of white noise

REC [CD whispers]  
[and another woman... is it  
the piece already?]  
une série d'instructions à suivre  
le bruit blanc  
un son très délicat

[waterfall]  
[French female voice  
giving instructions]  
ouvre les mains

lentement met les pouces  
de tes mains  
tu m'entends?  
éloigne tes mains de tes oreilles  
ouvre la paume de ta main  
white noise  
quelques centimètres

comme si tu voulais lui dire salut  
remet doucement tes doigts

REC [stumbling]

[door opens]  
[shaking noise]  
[tapping]  
[whispers]

[substance moving through tube]  
[like rain]

REC [birds]  
SJ halo jongens

[sigh]

[animals?]

[birds]

[CD talking in background]

[birds]

CH Christian here with micro  
salt through tunnel  
through though copper tube  
2 days sniffing to recorder

now you hear me

film about us on farm  
existing photos you'd see me  
fluffy thing  
that's what I was doing

recording everything  
farts  
digging  
salt  
no exercises in the game  
just the microphone  
invisible practice in this context

when there is no pictures you can't  
see where sounds comes from  
invisible game  
handed recording devices  
goes back to the question  
collecting sounds  
that's what we have in common

so many ways to do this  
devices  
scores

[tapping]

REC  
SJ halo jongens!  
[birds are chirping]  
[it sounds like a  
quite, relaxed day]  
[sawing]

[CH's voice talking to the birds]

CH we heard sand through copper tubes  
2 dogs sniffing in the stereo

me, with a fluffy thing in my hand  
there was a microphone in it

I recorded everything  
I recorded farts, burps, digging holes  
and what I want to say  
about this I don't know

it's an invisible thing

original question, theme  
called 'collecting sounds'  
that's what we have in common

scores

to perform collected via text

I like collecting through microphone  
I always work alone

not through ears  
but tickling sensation in buildings

JM close your eyes  
what sounds do you remember?  
1 min  
up for that?

[CH laughs]

CH yes  
JM static position  
time runs now  
CH the sounds I remember  
best are silences  
I'd have to imagine the  
sound it would make  
as close as you can get to the deer

how can you remember this as  
sound through imagination?

sound of inaudible deer

other sounds?

REC  
SJ go back to digging the hole  
[birds]

core practices  
living in a cave  
digging a hole  
bury for recording

CD stand back everyone

[explosion sound]

[sound of fire]  
[sound of water]

texts

I really f\*cking like collecting sounds  
– and listening to the...  
it takes a lot of care and energy  
I don't listen with my ears  
I get this very tickling feeling

JM what if you closed your  
eyes for a minute?  
what sounds do you remember?  
would you be up for that?

CH the sounds I can remember  
silences  
first one: this big field with deer  
[music from the street  
interrupts]

a sound that only goes  
through imagination

the inaudible deer

REC  
SJ I'm going back to my hole  
I've got some fresh battery  
friction of objects sound  
artists working and re-  
cording at the farm

CH stand back everyone

[crackling fire]  
[water splashes]  
[sawing]

SJ we hit a wall  
you'd not think salt could  
be so 2x resistant

DT I think I missed that moment

CD fill copper tubing with salt  
25m  
after 8 on ladder on hill  
cutting in half  
enough salt in there  
instructed to wrap & bend  
around a fire pit  
conical spiral shape  
took an organisational feed  
2 holes  
copper piping  
fire pit copper tubing  
structure into one hole

CD fire inside copper tubing  
get fire starting  
water in pit hole  
jerry can with petrol  
into the hole  
still didn't know what structure was for

JM fire sounds  
room with oracle practice  
onions deep frying in specific way

DT soffritto

JM petrol  
sauna  
fire by rain

SJ sound of failure  
hole number 1 water  
hole number 2 fire  
work with 4 elements in  
semiotic construction

[oracle sound]

big mistake

SJ I really hit the wall  
you would not think that  
salt is so resisting

CD we had to fill the copper  
tubing with salt  
25 meters  
that's quite a feed

I didn't know what the salt was for  
he was using the fire pit as a mold  
you cannot bend the copper piping  
we put the structure in a hole,  
and Steven  
conical spiral copper  
tubing shape

CD he was getting a jerrycan with  
petrol and threw it on the fire

we still didn't know what  
the tubing was for

JM different kinds of fire sounds  
room: oracle  
onions that were frying

DT soffritto

JM firepit  
sauna  
fires going out by rain

SJ in hole n°1 was water, n°2 fire

4 environments in a  
symbiotic structure

didn't empty tube with salt  
idea let salt come out  
by the heat by fire  
[water & fire]

SJ fire came out the pit  
imagine a fire slowly  
staring to float & dying  
that was that

JM somehow looks nice  
SJ like what  
JM weird experiment

maybe we should have at  
least one microphone

maybe dig a tunnel

[water]  
[metal sound]

SJ first water here to go out

CD exactly

SJ I'm an expert now  
almost everything went wrong  
next time right  
successful failure

still warm?

[sound of metal]

DT commentary of the lyrics

JM don't say  
let's listen

• REC

I'm firing a hole  
The Beatles  
kept my mind from wandering

DT think we should do karaoke  
SJ do you already know what  
you are making?  
DT this is a question

I didn't empty the tube with the salt

so the water came into the fire pit  
floating fire, water came  
from beneath  
that was that

JM it somehow looks like we are  
planning a weird experiment  
or killing people

maybe we make a tunnel?

[a kettle is ticking]

SJ everything failed, so next time  
I will do everything right

DT can we talk about the lyrics of  
this song we are playing

JM don't say,  
just listen

• REC

[Beatles song]  
I'm filling a crack

DT I think we should do a kara-  
oke with Steven singing  
SJ for the listeners at home, do you  
know what we were making?

4th WABook Conversation #4

SJ 2 holes  
copper wire  
fountain?  
very close

CH what's the chorus?  
CD doesn't matter if you are wrong or right

CH reads chorus oracle[laughing]

DT fixing a hole when the rain gets in

CH tarp in hole  
to prevent water to come in

reversed Beatles

SJ almost successful  
bit in trail by salt

CD we googled what happens  
when salt heats up

JM liquified at 400°

SJ bend tubing without tools  
salt to keep the shape  
like a coffee maker  
stands to bail in copper  
salt kept water from flowing

CD so basically you made a hot tub  
then we just had a sauna

CH what you can say & you  
walk west you might find  
a hole  
and now you know  
what does it sound like?  
muddy food bastard

SJ questions?  
CD I have a quote  
JM [singing]  
[water sound]

20/05/2021  
20/05/2021

fountain, is very close

DT sing the chorus now!  
CH what's the chorus from this?  
CD doesn't matter if you're wrong or right  
BETTER BETTER  
that's

DT fixing a hole when the rain  
gets in [Italian accent]  
SJ I'll keep it as a secret what  
we were making

CD we googled what happened with  
salt when it's heated it evaporates  
but that didn't  
400°  
900°

SJ to bend tubes with heating  
you need to fill it up

salt kept the water from flowing

CD I know how to do it  
Justine and I went off to have a sauna

CH you might find a  
big hole  
how does it sound?  
we don't know  
muddy foot bastard

[opera voice]

CD listening is risky  
might require change  
painful  
joint effort

*The Force of Listening*<sup>3</sup>  
Lucia Farinati

**REC** walking through Flanders  
JM [oracling] ↗↗↗↗↗↗↗↗↗↗  
↗↗  
breath ↗↗↗↗↗  
↗↗  
↗↗↗ breath ↘↘↘  
[alarm going off]

JM what would the hole say  
what was the hole listening to?  
invitation to work with the context

SJ opportunity to dig  
play with location  
aesthetic sounds of the hot bath  
  
only document with sound  
  
sound documentation of action  
later available in edited way

DT it was good to stay together  
  
this was what we talked about in WAB  
  
even with different practices  
nice to get along  
eat together  
happy to get to now you better

[oracle sounds]  
[birds]  
[snippets of conversation]

chickpeas flower

[rooster sounds]

CD listening is risky

**REC** so we're walking now through Flanders  
[walking sound]  
[screaming voice of the woman]  
[getting louder and louder]  
[you still hear the walking  
steps though]

JM and what would the hole say?  
invitation to work with the context

SJ sounds of enjoyment of a hot bath  
well that didn't work  
  
sound piece  
document of an action

DT It was nice for me to get to know you

different ways of working  
different practices  
even if we might never collaborate  
it is about life

[choking]  
[burping]  
[noise]  
[whispers]  
[discussion]  
[CD and DT talking about  
chickpeas flour]

[rooster]

[chicken]

[applause]

[chicken]

[applause]  
we did it!  
what fun!

1 [http://www.davidetidoni.name/  
back-to-back-with-paolo/](http://www.davidetidoni.name/back-to-back-with-paolo/)

2 [http://www.davidetidoni.name/  
the-sound-of-white-noise-2/](http://www.davidetidoni.name/the-sound-of-white-noise-2/)

3 Lucia Farinati & Claudia Firth,  
*The Force of Listening*, LA:  
Errant Bodies Press, 2017

1 [http://www.davidetidoni.name/  
back-to-back-with-paolo/](http://www.davidetidoni.name/back-to-back-with-paolo/)

2 [http://www.davidetidoni.name/  
the-sound-of-white-noise-2/](http://www.davidetidoni.name/the-sound-of-white-noise-2/)

'Are you lonely?' she asked her.

'Surprisingly not.'

She realized it was quite comforting to be alone. No one to negotiate time and space. No one to convince or counter what she needed or stumble through multiple opinions and advice coming from the outside – outside herself and her body; coming from doctors of expertise, loved ones of the family, caring friends, and well-meaning acquaintances. It can get exhausting to be available to receive their opinions. It is work to defend oneself or even to resist defending oneself.

No, it is comforting to be alone. Alone, it is just her and her body. In the silence, space and time, she could listen – very closely – to the whispers of her blood and the distant rumbling drums from the depths of her belly. Over the last year, the period of the Great Thaw, she came to realize this is where her life is sourced from, the depths of her belly.

Having no knowledge of her past, no clues to be found in the empty rooms of the castle, no matter how baroquely decorated, clutter-filled, luxuriously designed, they gave no clue to who she is. The richness of knowledge among the endless rows of books lining the expansive hall of the library told her nothing of where she came from. The further she traveled the kingdom terrains outside the castle in search of magic mountains, immortal waters, and reclusive monks, shamans and witches, the less chance of finding clarity of her past, to her *raison d'être*. Such pilgrimage only distanced, delayed, deflected her from herself, from where the answers really resided.

Over the slow passing of time, over the excruciating efforts of thawing her frozen body, she had come to learn to listen to the hidden sounds, sounds easily by-passed when her eyes were open. She learned to listen to the echoes, cries, whispers of her body. She learned to listen to the movement, ebb & flow of her blood, secret pact, alliances, and threats between her organs. Her organs each trying to re-light their own hearth of life. No longer having the strength of Qi to orchestrate a harmonious relationship supporting each other, the organs had resorted to acting in urgency and panic. Blindly stealing from each others barely lit sources of life to feed their own stoves, they end up suffocating each other.

In the silence she could listen to the chaos of the internal warzone – the plundering-plundering, the child's cry from among the rubbles, the warning sirens, the screaming falls of cancerous bombs, the fireworks of firearms flashing through the darkness of that cavernous world deep within.

By listening even closer, she heard the whispers, the soft weeping. Like "listening to a loved one's breath," she followed these signs. She learned to distinguish the foreground rumbles of war and panic from the tingling vibrations of the ancient spirit dormant, buried beneath. Well packed in the rubbles, safe from the dangers of attack, rape, and raids above, it had taken refuge in dormancy, unaware that if dormant too long, comes the dangers of stagnancy, slowly sucking energy away from its life. A slow slumber towards death.

Grace à refuge, retreat, silence, time and space to be alone, she encounters the source of her life. This dormant ancient spirit slowly degrading into a monster of decay.