

"The artist always precedes the psychoanalyst" J. Lacan

In times of confinement and restriction of social interaction, we invited several artists from a diversity of fields to tell us about their experiences during the confinement measures at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We put to them the following questions:

Q1 - *What is your experience, as an artist, of the impossibility to carry out cultural and artistic events 'in the flesh'? What is different when the audience / spectator is 'virtual'?*

Q2 - *In your particular form of art, what are the effects of the exclusion of the body in the encounter with the body of the other, i.e. what is different / new?
Can you relate this to the notion of 'presence' (can you -as an artist- do without physical presence?)*

We aim at learning from them, since we believe that their experiences and know-how can contribute to our thinking about subjectivity and about the analytic encounter.

M A N A B U G A L L O

Mana Bugallo is a poet, actress and singer. She's quarantined in Buenos Aires but lives in New York City. Together with Paula Maffia she performs the duet *Boca de Buzón*. Instagram: [@manabugallo](https://www.instagram.com/manabugallo)

Q1

I've been participating in a number of online festivals, live streaming via *Instagram*. For the most part it was an awkward and neurotic experience. Even if you perform alone, art for me is a collective experience and this extraordinary situation makes me confirm this every day.

Also, performing in front of the phone is essentially like performing in front of a mirror, but in this mirror you can see the number of people watching going up



and down, hearts, comments... it's too much of the wrong information. And when it ends you are tele-transported to the loneliness of your house. I love what I do but not only because of the moments that I'm on stage, there are conversations, discussions, hugs, that simply have no translation to a virtual performance. It's impossible to replace that.

But there's no choice and also the independent cultural scene in Buenos Aires is in dire straits, like everywhere else in the world I imagine, and we are trying to raise money via those streamings hoping that the places where we concentrate our artistic and political activity can survive this pandemic, so I'll do my best to learn how to enjoy this new way of doing things.

Q2

The body as an instrument of expression is a wonderfully simple and complex tool. Instead, the exclusion of it makes what I do feel plain and complicated. I haven't solved this yet, how to concoct this "presence" with the absence of all the ingredients. But I'm working on it.



"Brindis" - Mana Bugallo and Paula Maffia - *Boca de Buzón* (November 2016 at Brandon)

Watch [HERE](#)
