

Dr Evi Karathanasopoulou - *Air Free / Air Free 2* – Audio Installation. Exhibited in: THE NEW NEW, 83rd Thessaloniki International Fair's Pavilion 2 - Thessaloniki, Greece. 8-16 September 2018 | FREIRAUM in Berlin, On the State of Freedom in Europe: Exhibition, discussion, concert, performance in Berlin. ZK/U — Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik /Center for Art and Urbanistics Siemensstraße 27, 10551 Berlin. 12-17 March 2019. | Freiraum Exhibition: From Berlin to Thessaloniki. LABattoir -35, 26th October Street, Thessaloniki, Greece. 17-24 May 2019.

As an academic researcher and audio practitioner, one of my main interests is understanding the intimate qualities of mediated sound. The radio voice, this fragment of an otherwise person, may contain some of their most intimate qualities.

In this project a private space is created that simulates the unseen intimacies of the airwaves. The main of the work was to explore whether disparate populations can connect through the intimacy of the voice as pure sound.

The voices in this artwork were collected in Thessaloniki-Greece and Carlisle- UK.

The anonymous Greek-speaking voices were collected for me by the *Media Lab* community group in Thessaloniki after a workshop I delivered, teaching them about audio documentary, recording and interviewing techniques. The aim was for local people to bring me the voices of their community, rather than me selecting these as an outsider who might carry preconceptions.

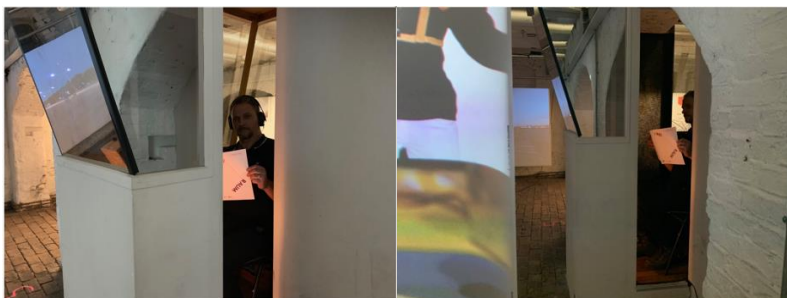
The English-speaking voices belong to poets from the *SpeakEasy* poetry group in Carlisle. The poets were sent audio clips of the voices from Greece along with three short poems I wrote in English, deriving from the content of the stories collected in Thessaloniki. The poets were asked to write poems as responses to these voices and my poem. Despite only listening to voices they could not understand and my poems being a very abstract representation of those voices, the poets in Carlisle absolutely captured the essence of those stories and provided very emotive responses.

I edited these voices together in a conversation that reveals how the intricacies, fears, aspirations of distant communities might be much closer than they seem. The voices in this artwork are an intimate aural tapestry of all those things that we have in common.

The work was listened to via headphones, within an intimate, private audio booth. Listen and read [here](#).  
Thessaloniki:



Berlin:



To listen to the Audio and read the poems click here: <https://soundcloud.com/evi-k/air-free-2-audio-installation-dr-evi-karathanasopoulou-copyright-2018/s-Gim9G>