

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you to ask for your participation in building an archive of audio responses to COVID-19 that talk specifically about the temporary changes to the noise climate of residents and communities living directly under the Heathrow flight path.

We all share this extraordinary and unimaginable moment of skies empty of planes and the sudden changes to our soundscapes in which quieter everyday sounds are now audible in the silence once filled by the background hum of our carbon-driven city. For those living under flight paths this is *a break from the noise* that has fuelled debates about Heathrow's expansion. In this moment of struggle and hardship a window of opportunity has opened in which we can, possibly for the first time, imagine ways to achieve cuts in global CO2 emissions that will steer us away from climate breakdown.

As artists we feel a deep responsibility to this aim and hold the belief that art has a major role to play in imagining a post-carbon world. We are calling on you to help us create a collective art work and sound archive of residents' reaction to this relief from noise: testimony and witness of communities living with the visual and sonic presence of a fossil fuel infrastructure. We anticipate aviation industry will be at the forefront of many discussions and policy changes as we begin to come out lockdown. We ask for your participation in asking the urgent question: What can art tell us about what might arrive next? Capturing this moment as we experience it will be invaluable in our attempts to create a different world, and the importance of remembering this abrupt change in air and noise pollution when calling for 'no return to normal'.

We are mindful this is a difficult period and more demands on our time feel frustrating and intrusive. It is with a sense of urgency that we therefore tread carefully in writing this request for participation, to make your own sound recordings (using your mobile phones) that capture both the silence of no/fewer planes and your voices and personal reflections about living under a flight path during national lockdown. In the last few days alone, we have begun to hear a dramatic increase in airplanes landing and taking off, diminishing the rare silence in which we are able to dream and imagine *another world is possible*.

Thank you kindly for taking time to read this letter, we hope you find the project interesting and worthy of your voice. If you are able to respond positively and generously, please get in contact via email, text message. Further instructions will then be communicated to you.

Email: b.parry@bathspa.ac.uk

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Warm wishes,

Ben & Lia

This is an independent initiative by visual artist Ben Parry, and sound artist Lia Mazzari. As participants you will be protected by our ethics protocols that ensure we are using a number of ethical standards to ensure you are fully informed of the study and what is being asked of you. All participants will have the right to remain confidential, and written informed consent must be obtained from the individual participant in advance of any future use. The data will be kept securely, participants will be kept updated of project developments. Editing, formatting for public presentation, on radio, web or in exhibition will require written consent from individual authors.