

P3

Session 1 (Both)

I:....So now we're going to talk about your experience. haha. I would like to work with you and ask about your own experience so in this interview conversation format you will mostly talk about your experience and I will listen and talk less but I will ask you if I don't understand what you're saying or if I want to know more about your experience. You look tired or ? No?

P3: No no, I have a cold. This was interesting because as I was writing in some ways I became aware of my cold because I began to think you know this installation sounds like something, it feels like something, it looks like something, what does it smell like? Am I missing out on the sensation of of um...because I don't have that ...I pretty much all my senses were stimulated: sight, um..hearing, um..touch,..i didn't taste the installation I guess but yea then um...yea...so that other sense became...

I: Okay um...so can you talk about the overall experience? How can you describe about your experience assuming you're talking to your friends....

P3: Well, if I had to use one word it would be—cool. It would be amazing. Um..one of the immediately one of the very first things I kind of thought of and even as I was entering the space, I was reminded of um...kind of the dawn of the universe. Like before things..like almost before the big bang when things were waiting for something to happen. There's a kind of waitingness, this suspension in time um...like um...I'm also reminded of this scene C.W. Lewis, 'The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe', one of the Narnia series, um..when the children are transported into the world of Narnia before it was created and there was nothing. There was only just kind of stars waiting. And that's what it reminds me of, the birth of the universe.

but..there's all these different energies that come to my mind as I...as I was going, as I experiencing it,....it depended on whether I was standing or sitting or laying down...whether I was standing still or moving about whether I was moving my arms it was very different.. Um..running around I,..it was like being in the ocean and seeing these mind- luminescent um..plankton. It's very cool and seeing kind of these movement. Um..I also realized my eye sight isn't the best right now or not sure whether right now or in general but I felt like I couldn't focus on the pinpoints of light. And there was also something a little disconcerting about that, that I could only see what was really right in front of me. yea, it was that was a little disconcerting so I wonder if the experience would be different had i, if I were wearing glasses...um...

I: But, all were you able to see the overall light?

P3: Oh absolutely, yea, I mean I could see the terrain. It was like almost like looking at a terrain of um...it was like looking at the topographic map of some imaginary country in some imaginary world...um...and I could almost like um...I could almost imagined these little villages and tiny houses, yea, on the terrain

I: Can you talk about the quality of lights? Like you experienced?

P3: I noticed that there were um...there were different kinds of patterns that would emerge. Right now I'm looking at it and there's a kind of wandering light and um..that was actually something I

wanted to experience more...was to have this umm wandering light that **I could wander and watch**. I felt like it was like right now **it's performing for me** and I just want to sit down...at some points there was some ..there would be times where everything would be a certain wash of a color um..and I noticed that the lights are always greens or blues. Um..very cool colors. I never really experienced red or orange. So I'm sure that's a deliberate decision and um..so **there was something very calming and quiet about it**. The lights have a quiet kind of energy about them even with them moving about it's really gradual. Yea.

I: What about sound?

P3: The sound was um...I think ..the i'm sure the reasons that I thought that um that enhanced **my topographical image was the sound of the wind**. I felt like I was um..i **was in a movie and I was like swooping down and was beginning to see this land unfold** before me you know. There's this wind going. **It's a very fantastic, like fantasy approach to it. It's like the 'Neverending Story'** um..so I mean it evokes a lot of these images and past experiences really. Things from my fantasies and things from my desires um..the uh and you see those clicking noises I mean it added, um..how did I feel...There were just kind of there in the background. I'm not sure how, how they affected me. These like I hear that 'twuit, twuit..' **The sound of the fiber optics when they swish and when I move through them, they sound like a rainmaker, beans falling on top of each other or like grass rustling through the wind**. Um..for some reason I was thinking **reeds in a marsh** and just the sound like

I: So we talked about um..lights and sound. I was wondering are there any senses did you ever have?

P3: Oh definitely. The um..several things, one is the texture of the..there are a couple of different textures. **The textures of the fiber glass which was um...it's a weird texture**. On the one hand everything is um..malleable. like **the installation is a whole and you can kind of mold it and there's also a kind of resistance to it like I can't draw everything in, no eventually some things fall away and I just kind of let go, it's just kinda like I can't do that oh that's okay**. And you know there's the fiber glass is kind of...there's a hardness to it you know and um..so you know I noticed that um...

I: How did you experience....

P3: How did I experience the **hardness.....I meanthere's a kind of frustration like I wish you weren't so hard**. I mean I know ..it's like I know that's what your material is, I know that's the only way we can get this, this..this install..so a bit of my the technical part, like I know this is the only to get this installation to work. But I wish it could just drape on my arm. **I wish it would like thread. I wish you were warmer**. And um...and also maybe just because I'm wearing a tshirt um...I really liked the felt floor because it was warm. And **so there's a coldness to this..um...kind of a distance**. Almost like **I want to be...um..more integrated into this world. I want it to really wrap me and surround me and take over me and possess me**. Um..but it can't ...it won't. It's only able to do what it does. Something I wrote there, is that the felt, it felt very ??welcome??. At times I wish, I could sink into it. I wish there was a big hole in the floor where I could just lay down and just look up. And something else I really like is being able to look up. Although I was distracted by the infrared lights because...suddenly the revelation. It just reveals the technical, the magical kinda just disappears...um..yea yea I understand. But maybe the projector, I can see, so ..the technical part of is making me thinking else ...if you could just extend this this ceiling a bit more so I don't have to see the projector that um...and then you know then **I began to think as a computer person myself it's like Oh, this probably looks simple on a screen. But you know when it's projected onto the fiber glass and the fiber glass itself is moving..it's just you know ..there's added complexity to the movement**. Yea and I

wish, **I wish this could extend forever. I wish I could just be lost in it. I wish this could be extended for a mile like all directions.**

I: Okay, so we talked about um...lights, sound, and texture...and I was wondering anything else you experienced in this environment?

P3: Uh...I mentioned earlier that I became aware of my own body. Like I became aware of the fact that I have a cold. Um..uh..i became aware that my movement was kind of restricted, a little bit because of the texture of the floor. I couldn't run as much, I can't slide. There's certain things that's like 'oh I can't really do that so'..um..uh..texture-I mean..sight uhh.....

I: so your movement, you said your movement was restricted by the material of the floor?...

P3: of the floor and um...and also the fiber glass I think um 'cos uh...you know there's a little small part of me saying like can I ..maybe if I kick to hard I'll destroy something? I know that fiber glass is brittle so uhh the little things in the back of my mind. But uh yea the floor above all, it made me want to walk more or lie down more.

I: Okay um..yea and you mainly talked about all the individual senses like light, texture and sound and texture of floor..but I was wondering any senses that worked together or all senses all worked together or sometimes you focused on something

P3: I mean I think it seems to me that um...predominately, **one sense would kind of be in my attention first like the texture of the floor.** And then that texture would prompt me to act, like lay down. From there I would notice other things. Then I would notice, I would notice the sound, the pattern of the light, the colors of the lights and once all of those had been put together, **I would experience an image. Like an image of a map, the image of the universe in its infancy.** Um..but it seems to me that's what happened. Uhh—that I didn't really experience all at the same time ..um.yea

I: Okay, um.can you describe qualities of this environment? You briefly talked about

P3: Um..I mean there's the qualities, I mean there's um..just qualities that are just linked to my senses you know. Like **I sense something about these the temperatures there's the cold and the warm welcoming of the floor and there's this hypnotizing pattern of the lights, there's** a, you know, the visual properties of the installation are very apparent, the layeredness and the kind of unevenness of the thing. I mean overall, there's **quietness** to it, I kind of a **waiting.** Waiting, it's just um..., a suspension, it's suspended in time. There's not really a narrative um..it's there. It kind of makes me think of something that's alive that doesn't need me and I'm kind of invading it um..or a kind of a guest I guess. So **there's a very life-like quality** to it I think, in general.

I: Okay, let's go back to your own experience. Can you describe the qualities of your experience..a kind of, we kind of mixed it all together when you were describing the qualities of your environment.

P3: Um..uh there were times when I felt very energized with the environment um..whenever I would discover a new, a new feature of the environment I'd be like "oh yes!" **and I would actually verbalize that, I'd be "oh this is so cool" and there'd a playfulness to that.** The quality of my experience, I'm not sure like whether I'm addressing what you're looking for or if I have the words to...experience it's uh...

I: hah yea I'm not looking for anything you can just talk what you..you know

P3: Sure it's uh...I mean there's also a uh...a quietness that I feel when I'm in there um..uh yeah, alternating with uh a kind of a joy seeing these things. **It's a very joyful kind of experience.** Um..

I: So you have uh...playful, joyful kind of qualities of your experience and quiet, and cold and kind of cool quality of it. I was wondering you know how does two different qualities, you know work together?

P3: Sure, sure, ..um...**boredom seems to be an important bridge.** So **I play around for a little bit and then I become bored.** And then I stop, and then it's actually kind of nice to just sit down and watch, and then I became bored of sitting and watching and then I stand up or do something. And then I notice something 'oh this is new movement patterns that happens if I do this.' Or 'oh um....'it's like **something kind of catches my attention as I act on my boredom.** It's like 'Oh I wonder what would happen if I explored this some more.' I realized that um sometimes the strings would clump together and wouldn't separate so it's like "oh what happens if I clump them all together..." so that's like "oh this is fun!" and then I can try looking at it and it's like "oh look I can look at it but it's just light " so it's like uh okay I'm bored. And then I let go of it and then they begin to move "oh that's really interesting and I wonder if I can do that"

You know what something I just, something I forgot there's um...a something about this, sometimes **there's a creative impulsiveness that arises in me, can I make something? can I cause the installation to something? You know, can I cause a certain pattern? Yea like can I gather it? Can I possess it?** So yea, I think uh..boredom plays a lot.

I: Okay is there anything you want to talk about, your experience about the installation?

P3: I want to, when I wanted to go in there, I want to come in there with...is it okay if I put on a jacket. Yeah? Okay. Okay.

I: yea this room temperature is not high

P3: Yea so sometimes there's an alienating quality to it. Um..because I can't possess it or it doesn't always yield to what I do. Yet I'm in there—it's like haha it's like being in a relationship....do you mind if I just get my jacket?....

Session 2 (Sound)

I: Okay, sorry, still cold? So let's focus on this session, don't worry about the first session. How was your overall experience?

P3: It's hard not to focus on the first session because **this one I felt impatient.** It's like where's my lights? And it felt, **I felt tired being this space.** I laid down and I just wanted to rest and it was almost like I was waiting?

I: What do you mean tired?

P3: Physically tired. Suddenly I was aware of my hunger, 'Oh I need, want some food' or um oh the floor was really nice. **It's hard not to think in comparison with the first one.** Um..uh..i saw the lights , I saw the strings and I started to look at this light, started looking at the interview space more. **I kind of felt engulfed,** I wish there light. And um...i **didn't really feel like I really wanted to play with the strings. They weren't alive, they weren't doing anything for me.** There's uh...I like I didn't feel like anything in the space was responding to me. Like maybe the

sounds were responding to what I was doing but I uhh, I never paid attention. I kind of assumed that only um...that if there was any..if the space was smart in anyway, it would only be responding to my to of ???? and light . Um..so I guess I laid there and enjoyed the sound of the wind, the sound was the same and then I got bored. Haha

I: Did you hear—What kind of sounds did you hear? You previously mentioned wind.

P3: I heard the wind, I heard this clicking sound. I don't know how to describe it but..this this dropping like water dropping, **dripping** from something. Um...Yea I don't know, I think I kind of blanked out. There were times that I blanked out. Uh..there was nothing on my mind.

I: Hm alright, now let's talk about you know, differences or similar experience or can you compare the two experiences? Between the first and second...

P3: Between the first and second..um...I mean there was certainly, **I felt more alive and more playful in the first one. I felt engaged. I felt more connected to the installation.**

In the second one it was empty. It felt like it just felt like the power went out and you're trying to get the regenerator in it and it's incomplete. I missed the lights a lot. A lot.

*I: So when you were in the first session, you talked about all kinds of **metaphoric elements** from the environment but now..?*

P3: None, there's really nothing there. No uh..like **I think more than ever I became aware of of how this is um...there's a technicality to this system.** It's um..a bunch of strings a line in a row—at some point I became aware of the fact that they were lined up in a row. As I was going through it, that the floor um...it's become more defined like “oh yea there's a bit of a bump here and a bump there” and it didn't feel like before like in the first one. The floor was just this big carpet of niceness and here it was, it's just felt, thin felt and it's just about half a centimeter thick and it's laid over and it's not laid over evenly haha you know? Haha it's like thank god I have this hoodie and thank god I have these fleece. **I almost feel angry it's like, I don't...like WHERE'S MY LIGHTS? Where's my experience? where's my universe? where's my universe before its creation? Where's my topography? It's not there, I feel cheated.** Hahaha.

I: Well that's good! Haha you know...all kinds of experiences can be created here. Uh yea, what about the temperature of the room? Were there any changes, I mean currently you have...jacket

P3: I just uh put it on more...um...

I: Did you feel similar? Coldness, did it feel similar?

P3: It's harder because I guess this is a variable I should have but I really needed to put on this. It didn't feel any colder no, it just um..you know, whereas **the first one it was a dynamic kind of waiting, a kind of suspension.** Like when someone's about to happen, to fall, here it's like it's frozen in time. It's just like it's waiting. But it's not waiting for anything magical, it's waiting because it has nothing better to do.

Session 3 (Visual)

I: Again...so how was your overall experience, can you describe it?

P3: Sure, um..I think **it was a quieter and calmer experience than either of the first two.** First of all I think I was really into seeing the light strings like “**yay you’re back**” and first thing I did when I came into the space, I fixed it a bit to make sure. To start fresh and um..I didn’t play around as much. Uh I think partly because I played around a fair bit in the first bit. I just laid down and I think I from the second experience, I realized not just laying down on the floor was nice. So the third time, I just laid on the floor and I just watched and I suddenly became aware of this space between the light strings and the floor. It’s like this little cavern. It’s like this big, it’s another space. It’s um..yea, **it was like..again all these images come to me, like the hulls of the dwarves in Lord of the Rings..these underground caverns lit with lights from underneath. I almost wanted to see little tables and little thrones and chairs and this vast underground wonderland.** And for some reason, it ..i yea it added a more underground feel to it. Halfway through it, I realized that there was no sound. And uhh...

I: So you didn’t realize it from the beginning...

P3: And I think, I don’t know. I get this sense that’s one of the reasons I decided to lie down. Um..i didn’t uh...yea. Yea I don’t know. I just wanted to lie down and watch and kind of allow..i just let the strings do their own thing and earlier I just wasn’t resistant to control it too much. **I didn’t have a strong creative impulse as I did earlier.** I was uh..my mind was um..more blank with yea **I just kind of allowed to zen out.** Um..

I: What can you describe a little bit more about that state?

P3: There’s kind of **playfulness** to it as well but it’s a very tiny kind of playfulness. Very small like um..at one point I just started collecting one string with another string and looking at it and then another string..**it’s like watching insects.** As opposed to running around in a forest trying to climb trees. That’s kind of the experience, **it’s more quiet, more gentle, more detail.** And less um..intrusive. yea. It was almost like...**So for example I’m watching an insect or like.it’s less intrusive than climbing a tree.** And in this case, it’s like watching this individual strings was less intrusive in than me running around the space which I did in the end. **I also knew it was my last trial so I kind of knew there was a kind of a fondness to it. You know when you’re about to see a friend and you’re going to say goodbye to them and you just want to capture as much as of what they were like before you say goodbye to them as opposed to interacting with them too much.** Just want to interact with them. And then I think you give them a big slap in the back which is kind of like what I did. It’s like ...oh, you know I could also participate in the installation by outside of it..by just watching from the outside. I realized so uh...yea so there was overall it was marked by a sense of a relief. Um....yea.

I: So, like half of this session, you didn’t realize there was sound and then when you realized that there was no sound how did you feel about it?

P3: Surprised. **Uh..surprised that I didn’t notice it.** Um...surprised that I didn’t miss it but at the same time wondering I knew ..i instinctively I know that it had an affect on me I think the sound and I don’t know if I can approve this to even to myself. **The sound allowed me to imagine more.** To create these worlds um..much more..there’s a lot to evoke uhh..there were a lot more metaphors that I could uh I could draw upon. Um...and **I think maybe my playfulness was enhanced by the sound. I think the sound uh...makes me want to act.** Like the sound made me agitated in the second trial I think. It’s just like I can’t hear something but I don’t see anything so that’s what s like. In the first trial I could hear something and I could relate to what I’m seeing and I can bring these two worlds together and come up with this kind of imagery. In here, here there’s a integrated whole, there’s uh..like a suspension uh and there’s one thing that characterizes this I think there’s a kind of waiting. A suspension and it’s not an active kind of suspension it’s just one that’s just um... it’s there because it has to be. It’s there it’s there because it is. Like **in the first one it’s I felt like the installation was waiting because**

something was about to happen. The second trial I felt the installation was waiting because it had nothing better to do. The third one I felt like it this installation was waiting because that's what it's job is. It's to wait. Hahaha

I: So for the last one, it has only light...can you talk about more about the light? Your experience about the light?

P3: Uh...I was more qui..yea I was less..i was um..just hyp..I think **it was just much more hypnotizing with just the light without the sound.** Uh..there was yea, there's a hypnotizing quality to it. Like I feel like I could've stayed longer I could have just kept on looking at the lights. it was um...you know what it's like um..i don't know what you like but **I like watching the washing machine go. It's just like going round and round and round. I could've stared at it for a long time.** Like I could do this um..with the lights. Like cause it wasn't trying to be anything else. It was trying to be an environment it wasn't trying to evoke an world. It was just um...it was just is. It was it. It was being. Um..uh...yea. I don't know. By the way, another, I think I also began to um..i began to see different properties of the strings. I saw how from sitting from below I could look up and see the strings and the string lit up and I could see them as waves of height as I kind of jostled them around. I felt more connected to the light I think. To the properties of the light to what it really was. Yea.

I: So you focused on watching the light and over time..like kind of the end of your session you kind of played with the fiber optics. You know touch and...and haha I was wondering that experience...

P3: you mean the connection between the two or just the second one

I: Uh just the second one and maybe connection with the first one as well

P3: Uhh..i mean after watching the lights, yes okay. I need to end this session at some point and yea I'm getting hungry. I'd better get up but yea okay before I leave let's see what else this baby can do. And then I said, earlier I began to think I said ..what can I run around? So then I began running around. And then I noticed something about the quality of the light change, it became this flat even thing which was more amenable to which is really perfect to see the at ease of light. So I just did that for a while and I found I could I wasn't getting as tired as I would and I just kept going around. And then as I was stepping out...

I: How'd you feel? Sorry to interrupt you, but you just walked around and around and around

P3: Like watching the washing machine **going round and round and round...I could have ..it's just mesmerizing. It's like watching a screen it's like watching river you could watch the sea for hours and never get tired of it. It's the same thing, it's dynamic, it's moving.** If these strings were perfectly still, if they were stiffer, if there was no air current, I mean this would be a less engaging thing. Um...but because it's always changing, even though it's not in so small changes which are very mesmerizing ..those little currents. Yea um. I could..uh how did I feel?

Yea it was like I mean overall I think one of the things about **this installation makes me feel like a child again** you know. **I could..when I was a kid...in the swimming pool and I would just take my arm and then just shift the water and then make the water go away and I could just do that. I would just spin around the pool making a wave.** Um...so...and I guess it's just as little children you engage in these repetitive cyclical motions as to engage us and to put us into a kind of flow. And I think that's what it was like as well. I think sufi and how they would just whirl round and round you. And at the very end when I was stepping out I wanted to extend the

moment some more so I can watch the installation from the outside so I started swishing it and wanted to see it move.

I: So how was it different experience from inside and outside?

P3: I get a more complete picture from the outside I think. Just the feeling of a map, a topography, or a city. Like it's much more apparent from the outside. **From the inside it's um...it's more like you're floating in space. Here's it's more like you're in a helicopter watching. Yea floating in outer space first and then helicopter going over some terrestrial terrain.**

*I: Okay, can you briefly talk about you know the **difference** experience from each session?*

P3: Yea I talked a little bit about it but um...so the first, the first session it was a kind of glee that I experienced. It was new, I never seen it, it was the 'gee, whiz, wow' factor so it was very playful I felt um..i uh...it was like meeting a new person

and then in the second session **it's almost like the person wasn't listening to me** or I had met them and they were distracted and they weren't doing what I expected to them.

And the third session it was like just taking them for who they are and just watching them and not feeling the need to control anything or interact with it necessarily. Um..it's more quiet. **I think the agitation that I felt in the second session informed what happened in the third session so there's this sense of relief. Um..I uh I was happy.**

I: What about your body temperature? Like any changes?

P3: I don't know if they were any changes as such in my body temperature.

I: Oh I don't know I saw like your hoodie for the second session and the third one you didn't have so I was wondering.

P3: Oh right. I didn't have it on. Uh huh..it was this perception that um in the second section I felt less comforted. It wasn't comforting enough. I had this on and it's not just for the warmth that I had this on but for the feel of the fleece against my skin. And here, um..i felt causative, I felt like I was wrapped in sensation with the felt of the floor, by the dancing light you know. It was more you know immersive I don't know but it felt like it was more of a cocoon. Here, if I had my hoodie on in the third session, I felt like I would've missed out on what was happening around me like I wanted to soaking more what was going on. Um..i think that fact that even with the hoodie and with this fleece and everything the room is so cold and it just make moving less comfortable and more aware of what I can't do. Uh yea.

*I: Which section was the **strongest sensory experience**? Experiential session?*

P3: Sensory. I think just the third session—wait wait, no it depends. In third session I was really attuned to the lights to the visuality of the installation. In the second..well you know, no well. Well in the first and the third session I felt more immersed in it and in the second section I was very aware of the sound. I was very aware of things around me because I felt removed from it. I felt like I was observing it. I wasn't lost. So um...so from the sensory perspective, I can give you a more clearer description sensory in the second...you know I told you about how the felt like it was this high and you know I could see it was unevenly you know and I could see how things lined up. And here in the first and third session, just kind of this wash of kind of everything coming together. Um..and in the first session, that's when uh these images were the strongest, so **yea**

the metaphors came strongly in the first. But I enjoyed the third a lot because it was very meditative.

I: So if you experienced one session one more time, what would you try?

P3: The first session. Yea partly because it's the one that I haven't...seen in a while . But yea the first session.

I: So does that mean you like the first one the most?

P3: I like...I can tell you that I didn't like the second session. Uh or that I had a negative effective response to it I guess. The third section it was just...it's the difference between um...being with your husband, lover, your wife, you're out seeing a play and having a good time or being together in bed playing with each other's hair...which is better? You tell me. That's what the first and third sections were like for me. Haha

I: Haha Thank you thank you for so much for your time and wonderful feedback.