

P9

Session 1 (Both)

*I: Okay, today we're going to talk about your experience. I want to work with you to understand how you experience this art work and how your sensation and perceptions help to construct your overall experience and how do you know that experience—that kind of things. So in this kind of interview format, you'll mainly be talking and I'll be listening but I'll ask you sometimes to make sure it's right, what I understand from you. Also if I know more about your experience in certain parts, I will ask some questions. Just one thing I'd like you to, I wanna ask you to is that when you describe your experience, explain in details, that's the only thing I'd like to ask. So how would you **explain your experience** to someone?...in this one?*

P9: Um..Well I would say uh, that Jinsil, who is someone I go to school with, she asked me to come and be in her experiment, I wasn't even sure what. I thought it was going to be something to do with your art work but I didn't know quite what and when I think of the artwork. I think of a lot of little lights everywhere. So I thought there was something to do with that. So when I saw that...I thought yeah, there's a bunch of little lights in there. But I would say it was a, it was good because I could feel I guess I would say to them, I don't know if I would tell them too much actually because it would give too much away. But suppose it was someone who already knew what it was about like yourself then I would describe it as.

At first I thought it was kind of like a curtain that you would go with a **kind of a curtain, a beaded curtain** or something that you could see that when the light is shining, when the light goes out, I thought I would hit that sooner I guess but then when I walked what I thought was towards it and I didn't feel it, and then I thought oh is it something projected?" And then maybe I thought "oh maybe they're projected in there." And that's what **I kind of initially thought that it was kind of projected. And then but then when I went in there, and I felt that it was physical.** Some kind of strings. I realized it wasn't really projected like the fiber optic strings or something like that. And that they have a, one of them has a light in the middle but all the rest only have lights at the bottom. I don't know if there's anything special about that one or just two pieces tied together or something I'm not sure.

And um... like the **sound** of it. When you move it around, it's kind of like **wind** in a way. And but it's kind of neutral sound it's like **dripping water**, like even when I was first sitting here, I was...I felt like saying to you, is there some water dripping over there? Haha I just thought maybe it was...water dripping. And but then once I got inside of there and started playing around with it, it was a lot of fun to move those things around. It didn't seem like ...not really a...there was not really ..maybe a **more physical sound of the plastic moving through the air**, that gives it a wind sound more than a responsive sound... although I don't know what that dripping sound is.

And um...there was a kind of like **sparkles. In a way when you put a sparkler in front of your eyes and you see the lights.** Trails and I did it with one hands and two hands. I tried running around but running too fast because the floor felt a little bit slippery. And um..oh and I was saying **it reminded me of Northern Lights**...that's what I really had a feeling of when I was in there. **The combination of the wind and the lights even though the Northern Lights don't really look like that, it kind of gave me that sensation.**

I: Have you seen the Northern Lights before?

P9: Mhmmm.

I: Oh where?

P9: Not around here, you have to go further north.

I: Oh I've never seen real one

P9: Nelson is probably the closest to here and northern Saskatchewan. The Nelson ones were really good. There were a lot of colors in there, sometimes they're just white. Like it's almost like the lights go "zhun zhun zhun zhun" like that but I don't know I like the color ones better than the white.. white or yellow but sometimes you get red or blue in there

I: Um...okay that's it? Okay I was wondering when you entered that environment, what was the first sensation were you aware of?

P9: Uh hm...it was, **I guess feeling the strands, the feeling of walking through the strands.** And it was different but it kind of reminded me of...did you ever see the during the Cultural Olympia that piece at Great Northern Way Campus, it was kind of like reeds of light, there were ones standing up and you walk through and you could walk through...it wasn't quite like that, but it was a physical thing too where you went through and as you went through the lights became more alive. It but a different sensation, but I like yours better kind of in the way there's more lights and, there's more things to do rather than in that one. That was more go to the front and the back and then back again, that's all you can do. You didn't feel like you could go right in the middle of it somehow.

I: Okay, when you entered, you feel strings on your body, how was..how did you feel about that?

P9: Um...I liked it, **it didn't make me feel anxious or anything like that.** I didn't have that little heart thing no. Nothing like that. I just thought "**oh this is nice.**"

I: Okay, as time goes by actually you moved around the environment quite a lot, um...did you feel any different through that?

P9: I was trying to find out if there was anything different in any part of it. But it seemed like they were all kind of similar to each other. **It gives you that sort of optical illusion that there are, that the floor is uneven because of the way of the lights are but then I realized that it was the same wherever you went in there. But it seemed like maybe when I stopped moving it got darker again and then when I started to move again, the lights went on more but I don't know if they were just responding more to the light.** Then one other time when I was moving, it seemed like it kind of got dark too a few times.

I: How different when it's brighter or darker? Did you feel any difference?

P9: Um, it kind of it felt like when it was dark, **it felt like it was going to sleep and then waking up.**

I: Ah okay, so did you kind of make , it seems like you made a relation with your movement and the lights but you weren't sure? Is that right?

P9: Yeah. Yeah I guess **it was maybe part of my brain was taking over. Whether it was the analytical side that was trying to figure it out. Whether it was more the playful side where it was trying to move around in it and you know like how kids do snow angels.** Just move because it feels good.

I: So when you move, I saw you move your arms a lot. Slowly, gently, from you know to like really quickly, fast...what did you mean to you moving arms in that environment

P9: Well it wasn't. I was, I **didn't know whether it was very delicate or if it was going to break so I had to be gentle at first, but I could see "oh okay I don't think it's going to break."** And uh I actually liked sometimes when I moved around and the pieces got all tangled up and the shapes that it made. And um...but then I thought I wanted to straighten it out before I got out of there. Hahaha But it did seem like the pieces ended up being ??modded?? but I think there's probably still some that didn't get totally straightened out, I had some big shapes.

*I: Um...about the light you mentioned, it reminded you about the Northern Lights. Do you have any other **qualities of light effect** here?*

P9: Stars I thought. I **thought stars and constellations**. A group mixed, groups of stars but there are too many stars in there to really have constellations I guess.

I: Any other characteristics of light? Are you aware of anything?

P9: Um...one time I felt like one time **it got warm** but I don't think I didn't know if it really did or not

I: What do you mean warm? Hot?

P9: Temperature

I: Oh temperature. You mean the color temperature or body temperature?

P9: That um when I moved it around. **The temperature of the..the physical temperature got warmer but like I said I think it was just my imagination but I had I felt the heat sensation** but I didn't think it was...I thought it was kind of my imagination. Haha that's alright

I: So when you feel a little bit warm, did it mean to you ...anything ? like...

P9: Friction, like when things move fast.

*I: Um what about **sound**, you mentioned you heard dripping sounds and also you made relation with your movement and sound a little bit. Could you describe a little bit more about sound?*

P9: Um...It seems like more, **when I'm I was quiet in there or now when I'm outside of there that I hear the dripping sound more**. And inside when I was moving it around I don't even know if i heard that many of the drips at all.

I: When you were experiencing it, there were lots of construction sound? How did you feel about that?

P9: That, I think it definitely affected my mood. Because I couldn't get really absorbed in it because I uh yeah.

I: Yeah sorry about that I couldn't....

P9: it's out of your control haha.

*I: Did you **experience anything from your inside of your body?***

P9: Inside of the body..Uh, not really. I guess you know the **physical sensations were more external whether I felt it with my feet or saw it with my eyes or ears and felt it on the exterior.** Some, yea some emotional feelings I guess on the inside like **happy. Made me feel kind of happy and playful to be in there.**

I: Can you, I wonder you know, when you mention you were kind of warm inside a little bit...um...is it related to your quality of experience, like playful or happy?

P9: Um...maybe or just moving around I guess made me feel warmer

I: Okay 'cos of physical movement

P9: Physical movement.

I: What about floor?

P9: It was, it felt like it was kind of slippery but it was soft. **It felt kind of soft and warm but just slightly unsure of my footing on the floor 'cos it felt slippery.**

I: Um or how would you describe your experience? you mentioned you were happy or playful um...can you describe the kind of qualities in this session?

P9: Uh, yes well **it made me feel in a good mood. It made me feel happy and slightly nostalgic for the Northern Lights and that experience as you can't have it around you.**

*I: When you saw the **Northern Lights**, how did you feel?*

P9: **It's really um...awe-inspiring,** like you just look up and just think...this is why people believe in God and things like that because the sky is just so –like nothing you've ever seen before. Just bands of lights that just go 'pphh phhh phhh phh' across the sky and then they kind of move slowly move pass and another one comes 'tshh tshh tshh tshh' its like light that writes on the sky in a way. Probably if you just google Northern Lights...you can get a movie of it...but I'm not sure if it's the same as experiencing it. **It makes you feel like awe like a spiritual experience.**

I: So in what way, I don't think it's any kind of spiritual experience but can you little bit elaborate on that relationship between this piece and the Northern Lights?

P9: Yeah, I think it's um...it's an experience that's different from every day experiences. **Something that's more exceptional than normal.**

I: In that way you think...

P9: **This is associated with lights...**

I: When you move your body a lot, were you able to see the lights inside of that?

P9: Mhmmm...it definitely seemed like when I moved the lights lit up more.

I: More alright. Um...do you have anything you want to add?

P9: Well yeah, I noticed that too the colors changed. I guess that was the other thing with the movement. **Like it seemed maybe yellow and green are more active when I was moving than blue. Blue seems more like the standby**—I'm trying to remember what color it was when I think it was green.

I: Oh but did you noticed that when you were in or it's kind after thought?

P9: I just remembered it now

I: Oh okay so you realized that there's two kinds and one is more active and the other one is not

P9: Um...well just that 'cos, that looking at that over there, and I can see the green moving around that. That's kind of what I thought at first. It was projected before I went in there. So it...I don't know I just thought it was that the ones that had a kind of passive light state and an active light state.

I: Oh okay, so uh...did you play around that...the active and inactive ones or didn't really mean to when you were playing in it inside?

P9: No, just the stop and start was the main way I played with that. When i stopped, I could see it got dark.

Session 2 (Sound)

I: How would you describe your experience this time?

P9: It was quite different. When I went in I felt like I could hardly wait to get out of here.

I: Because?

P9: Um...because I think what made it more fun and playful before was the lights. And having the lights to play with but just having limited lighting, it just lights up all the strings that surround you and **made me feel more like I wanted to get out of there. It was like uh a spider web but with a different texture. Something like that made me feel like trapped.** But when I closed my eyes and that one I just closed my eyes so that I wouldn't see it because what I saw I didn't really like. But when my eyes were closed I just thought "oh maybe this is like more about audio" and listening so then, hence I tried listening to different areas. And um...the dripping sound I heard a little bit of that but there was more of a 'tuh tuh tuh tuh' something like that, I thought "oh one of greg's compositions!" but haha I don't know if that's

I: Haha, yeah all the sounds by Greg

P9: I recognized this aesthetic taste haha..and then over there I heard the wind sound again. So I realized it was there was also a sound in there of the wind. It wasn't just **the sound of the things moving around but yeah, I didn't feel playful.** I didn't want to play with it. I just thought, I should at least spend 5 minutes in here. Haha

I: So, maybe the fiber optics, the physical environment didn't make you play inside or sound? Mostly the tactility? or

P9: It's funny how different the tactile feeling was. You know, logically I know it's exactly the same in number one, the first situation, and number two but in number one I liked it. It was fun, it was playful. It was like rain falling on your face. The second one was more like a barrier, things get in the way, I don't like it. I don't like to move around in it.

I: Uh huh so that was...

P9: I'll just close my eyes and wait for it to be over. Haha

I: Sorry about that...so when you feel that way um...did you think that's...you want to get out of here as soon as possible or did your body...did you feel anything from your body?

P9: Yes, that was my body saying I want..."ugh...ughhh...this isn't very nice, I don't like it in here"

I: is it mainly because they're touching you or you see the real plastic in the dark environment?

P9: Uh...both. 'cos it was touching me and yeah when you look at see..i'm surrounded by these things I just want to get out of here..i don't...

I: When you closed your eyes, did you move around or did you just stand still?

P9: I closed my eyes and moved around. I can move pretty well with my eyes closed.

I: When you close your eyes and move around a little bit, now how did you feel about...

P9: But...better. It was visually what I was seeing that was making me uncomfortable I guess. 'Cos when I moved around that didn't, wasn't bad when I had my eyes closed. But when I had my eyes open I didn't like how it looked.

I: Alright, do you want to add anything? In this session?

P9: um...oh yeah when I heard the wind sound and then I felt a cold draft. Maybe it was the ghost. No ahaha over in that corner, I don't know maybe there's a door over there or something

I: It's not a door but uhh okay!

P9: Something..felt cold it was cold, it wasn't freezing cold but cooler

I: That area? Especially?

P9: That was the only place I felt it, where I heard the wind sound and I felt it towards the back there. About half way back.

I: So you feel cold that means physically cold

P9: I felt it on my cheek

I: That's weird...maybe that there's some space that's not fully covered maybe...

P9: That's where the opening in the curtain...

I: Okay alright...

P9: But I felt it a few times not just once

I: Ah okay only that area?

P9: Maybe it gives you hallucinations in there! Haha

Session 3 (Visual)

I: How would you explain this?

P9: Oh I liked going back in there with the lights. I guess the lights give you immediate feedback maybe that's partly what's so appealing about them.

I: What kind of immediate feedback?

P9: Well when you move, they change colors.

I: So when you move, the colors will change and how did you feel about that?

P9: I wanted to put the feeling...I wanted to put them and have them you know I have them right inside like right in front of my eyes as I was walking through. **Like I had two mental scenarios I guess going on. The first one was that...was that I was kind of a seafarer? And I was using the stars on the floor like the constellations to find my way. The second part most of the time, it was that, it was like fresh snow that was coming onto me and so then I kind of deliberately so that it was falling in my face so that I could feel it. And I also felt like it had also a kind of um...like when you're in the shower or if in the rain and they have negative ions and it improves your mood? It kind of made me have that same kind of feeling like being in the shower and having an little bit of an uplifted feeling like that.**

I: Did you or any..other senses?

P9: I didn't hear the other sounds I heard in the other one. I mean I heard the physical sounds of the things moving but not the wind or that other 'thuut thuut thuut thuut' or the dripping sound. I didn't hear any of those.

I: So without those sounds how was your experience different?

P9: Uh...well I guess I'll probably associate them with the middle time that I didn't like so much so I'm kind of glad the sounds weren't there. 'Cos maybe that's what made me not have so much fun and I guess this time too 'cos there wasn't that construction sound this time so I could just kind of play a little bit more.

I: So as a light installation or a visual piece how would you describe this environment?

P9: How would I describe it? Well I **it's interactive, and it's...tactile. And it's fun.** I don't know if I want to be in there with another person. I think I had more fun being there by myself but I don't know. I would have to see. If I was in a gallery, and there were 10 people in there. I don't think I would like it as much.

I: Why do you think?

P9: 'Cos they would get in my way. 'cos I like to see what I'm causing to happen and then if there were a lot of people in there I wouldn't know who was doing what.

I: So you had three different session. Can you describe how you experience was being changed or kind of similar through the three sessions?

P9: The first one and the third one seemed the most similar but the difference was that I knew what to expect the third time and there weren't wasn't the kind of interference from the outside noise. So I think the third time...maybe the first time I had the most...physical sensation because it was new and I didn't know what was going to happen. But I think the third time I had the most fun playing with it because I kind of knew what it was going to do and I thought "oh good here my chance to play it again." I was afraid you'd just I would just be left with that second one. So I was happy that I had the third one to go back and experience it again 'cos I won't have something like that at home. So maybe it's be my last chance to experience it until you put it in a gallery or something like that.

I: So it'll be the last question...I'm going to have...what was the most compelling or evocative experience from all the sessions?

P9: Well um..what I think what's um...what I like is not...it's piece isn't...by itself because allowed me to experience things from my memory and uh..kind of imaginary identity things that I don't think they're not in that piece...they're from me so it's more about the interaction between the piece and the person whose interacting with it and what that triggers in you I think.

I: That's the strongest part?

P9: That's the strongest part. But I think without the...and yeah the lights well physically how it is that you can experience it...when **you're in there you always feel conneted to it as part of it.** And I think that's good to feel...to feel part of a circuit like you're the missing part of the circuit, you the person that goes in there and acts out with it.

I: So when you were experiencing it, um did you feel you were part of the piece?

P9: Mhmm.

I: Can I ask you one more time, how?

P9: How? Um...because of being a part of it...if I moved then it would change somehow not in the second one. Except for going certain spots to hear the sound or something. So, I didn't feel didn't really feel a part of it I guess that was the difference in the second one, I did not feel a part of it. And so the experience of feeling a part of it as an organism, I mean, logically it's not really alive but that's how it felt to me. **Part of a living thing that extends beyond your physical reach.**

I: Thank you so much for your great feedback