

*Thais Montanari*

## **MOI \_ ESPACE PUBLIC**

[thaismontanari.com/mep](http://thaismontanari.com/mep)

*Moi\_Espace Public* invites any person who identifies as a woman or gender-nonconforming to share their personal experience of how they express themselves and behave in different public spaces, including virtual ones.

This score is an invitation to reflect on the space that surrounds us and how we integrate ourselves into it.

## Steps to follow for creating your own video:

**1. Read and reflect on the excerpts below, adapted from the book *The Production of Space* by Henri Lefebvre (tr.: Donald Nicholson-Smith):**

*The space is at once a precondition and a result of social superstructures. The state and each of its constituent institutions, call for spaces - but spaces which they can then organize according to their specific requirements.*

*Though a product to be used, to be consumed, the space is also a means of production; networks of exchange and flows of raw materials and energy fashion space and are determined by it.*

*The more carefully one examines space, considering it not only with the eyes, not only with the intellect, but also with all the senses, with the total body, the more clearly one becomes aware of the conflicts at work within it.*

*One (i.e. each member of the society under consideration) relates oneself to space, situates oneself in space. One places oneself at the center, designates oneself, measures oneself, and uses oneself as a measure. A specific social status implies a role and a function: an individual and a public identity. It also implies a location, a place in society, a position.*

*The individual situates his body in its own space and apprehends the space around the body. The energy available to each seeks employment in that space, and the other bodies which that energy encounters, be they inert or living, constitute obstacles, dangers, coagents, or prizes for it.*

**2. Imagine yourself in a one-off or everyday situation, in which you can analyze how you insert yourself into the dynamic between the construction and use of public space and individual freedom (examples: accessibility, freedom of speech or choice, access to information, self-image and self-affirmation, inclusion, equity, security, etc.).**

**3.** Within this subject, think about the following questions:

- A. What **role or character** does society expect you to play in this context?
- B. What is **the character** you play in this context in real life?
- C. Ideally, what is the **role you would like to play** in this context?
- D. **How do you feel** when you think about the differences between the roles in A, B and C?

**4.** Choose a public space that can function as a metaphor or décor for the subjects explored above (e.g. a public building, bar or café, shopping center, public market, park or recreational facility, social network, street, means of public transport, etc.). Visit, observe, and listen to this space, in person or through your memory. Situate yourself within this space.

**5.** After visiting this place, think on sounds and images to represent the characters you imagined during step number 3.

**6.** Create a structure to put together this sounds and images in a way to communicate the ideas you addressed in step 2 as well as any other reflections you had during your process.

**7.** Reproduce and/or record those sounds and images through any means available to you.

**8.** With the audio and visual material that you produced and/or recorded in the previous steps, create an audiovisual work between 3 and 20 minutes long. Create this video in whatever aesthetic you wish and with the means available to you.

## \_ GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT \_

Once finished, the video will be made available on a [web page dedicated to the project](#), as well as on related platforms (partners' social media pages, etc.). By participating in this project, each artist grants *Moi\_Espace Public* a non-exclusive license on the submitted material, authorizing its reproduction and distribution for non-profit purposes through both the project website and all affiliated platforms. Each participant must acknowledge and warrant that the document does not contain any defamatory element or hate speech and does not incite discrimination, hatred, violence or segregation. Each participant must assume responsibility for all copyright associated with their video and any accompanying content.

Submitted videos must be available on a video hosting platform by any link allowing the video to be embedded on the project website will be accepted. The video must be either public or unlisted.

If you need help or have any questions, email me at: [thaismontanari@riseup.net](mailto:thaismontanari@riseup.net)

## \_ INSTRUCTIONS FOR SENDING YOUR VIDEO \_

Send the following email to [thaismontanari@riseup.net](mailto:thaismontanari@riseup.net) :

*I wish to participate in the project Moi\_Espace Public with the following work: (LINK TO YOUR VIDEO). I grant Moi\_Espace Public a non-exclusive license authorizing the reproduction and distribution of the submitted material for non-profit purposes through the project website and all affiliated platforms. (YOUR NAME + YOUR ARTIST NAME)*

If you wish, you can also send me:

- A short text about your work (100 words maximum);
- The names and roles of the people involved in the creation of your work;
- Links to any documents related to your video;
- Your contact info, your web page or other platforms on which you share your artistic work.