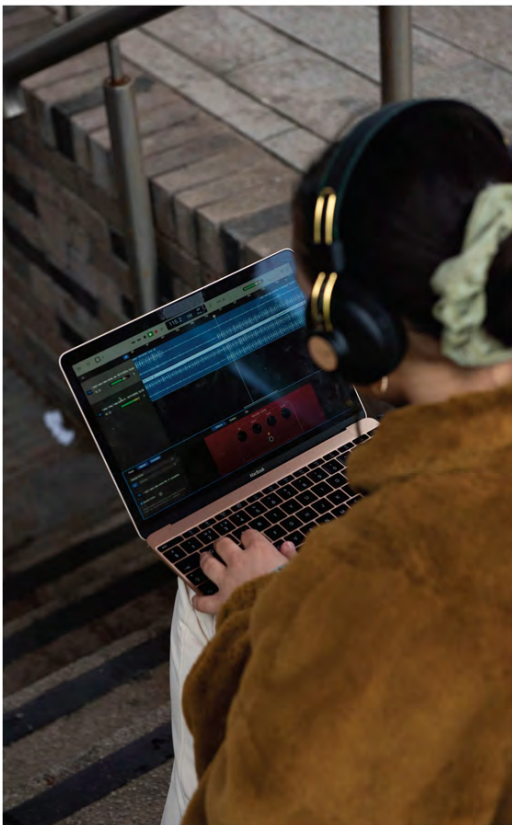


Through the Phases

Melisa Cerriku



I observe how the emotional and psychological effects of sound can heighten awareness of the space occupied within my work.

As an Albanian artist based in Nottingham, my practice is centred upon creating uncomfortable sonic environments, interrogating the ideology of social depression, dark emotions and suppression. I work with invisible themes of sadness taken from the human condition and situations involving great disappointment.

This project is heavily rooted in the theme of identity, a self-reflective process of who I am, exploring the importance of identity in our society. The word 'identity' has a double meaning, referring to social categories and the sources of an individual's self-respect or dignity. My work in this show consists of snippets of sound recordings, a journal in which the protagonist spells out her inner struggles in a self-reflective way.

The exhibition **Grace before Jones: Camera, Disco, Studio** is a massive influence for an artist like me who struggles with the concept of identity. The Jamaican model, singer, and songwriter's clothes are an essential aspect of who she is, never seeming to shy away from self-exposure. The exhibition prompted me to think about the way we perceive one another.

As a group, we are interested in the idea of the performance of life - the way Jones built her persona and the way her performance was made as a coherent part of her being. She found herself through choreographed and carefully constructed appearances, performances in ever-changing styles. Our exhibition acknowledges different approaches and points of reference to the exhibitions, and is the start of ongoing conversations and exchange of ideas between artists.

With the challenges of the pandemic, creating new work has been complex, with imposed limitations and the need to revise ideas. My work is process-led, so I allow time to listen and create an intimate relationship between the viewer and the artwork.

Through my artwork visitors might reflect upon their sense of self. In sharing grief and desolation, a heaviness is held within the piece; uncomfortable and discreetly holding attention.











