

## ‘Digital Contemplative Community in Pandemic Times’: Creative Response

KATHERINA RADEVA, *Two Destination Language*

A heart, a hand, a dagger, a flower, and bodies. This is the human experience in one.

As I gaze into this collage, the first thing that comes to mind is TIME.

The time it has taken to plan the symbols it depicts.

Time to map out its space, time to make the choices of colour, the time it has taken to decide when it is finished.

Is it finished?

*Is  
anything  
finished?*

When is it finished?

Time is a process.

And the process is learning, even if the learning at hand is to unlearn.

As invited by the artist/maker, this piece asks of our time, too:

Take the time to gaze, and for that gaze to move and shift.

Take the time to look at the layers.

Take the time to consider the flat surface and the 3D elements.

Take the time to sit with its pain.

Take the time to look for ways to heal.

Take the time to consider ancestry and history, and who wrote said history, who was in charge of the writing, and who was left out of it.

The piece asks of us to pause. To reconnect with practices beyond our mostly linear Western binary thinking, to allow space for multiple ways of being, space to feel pain and space to heal.

And this moment, now, sharply brought into focus by the global COVID-19 pandemic is the time we collectively need to take responsibility to diversify and broaden our parallels of being, to seek new ways of connection, to find healing through community across time and space.

This collage prods us into complexity and finding joy in the layers of history.

## Biography

**Katherina Radeva** is a multi-award-winning theatre maker, visual artist, set and costume designer, and creative director at [Two Destination Language](#). She tours internationally and her visual artwork has been exhibited across Europe and the United States. She is a vocal campaigner for inclusion and diversity and fair pay for arts and cultural workers. Born in Bulgaria, Katherina has lived in the UK for over 20 years as a first-generation migrant.

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