

**Katya Ev**

# **VISITORS OF AN EXHIBITION SPACE ARE SUGGESTED TO 'DO NOTHING'**

## **CONTRACT FOR 'DOING NOTHING' N°[DATE: YEAR-MONTH-DAY/NUMBER OF THE PARTICIPANT]**

(Hereinafter referred to as 'Contract')

### **By and between**

**Ekaterina Vasilyeva**

born 21/10/1983 in Moscow, USSR

residing at 38 rue Jacques Louvel-Tessier 75010 Paris, France

(Hereinafter referred to as “**I / Me**”)

**and**

**[First name] [Surname]**

Born on [date] in [City], [Country]

Residing at [full address], [ZIP code], [City], [Country]

(Hereinafter referred to as “**You**”)

Me and You are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “**Parties**”.

### **Parties agree on the following:**

#### **1. 'Doing nothing'**

1.1 You will 'do nothing' on [date taken from computer] in the capacity of visitor of the exhibition *In a Long Blink of the Eye*<sup>1</sup> and the performance *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'* by Katya Ev.

1.2 'Doing nothing' will be performed through physical presence and embodiment.

1.3 'Doing nothing' will be performed within the space and framework of *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'* and during the hours communicated as hours of activation of the performance: 16 – 20 December, 2020 and on 7, 14, 21, 30 January 2021, on each date from 2 pm to 6 pm.

If a physical presence cannot take place because of applicable COVID-19 measures, or for serious health reasons You will 'do nothing' in a digital form through a virtual meeting environment.

In this case, You are liable to create similar conditions to the setup of *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'* as stipulated in 2.1. All material describing the space setup will be transmitted to You.

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<sup>1</sup> HISK laureates exhibition taking place at Gosset site, Rue Gabrielle Petitstraat 4-6, 1080 Brussels, December 16, 2020 - January 31, 2021

1.4 You declare that you have taken notice of the mindset through which 'doing nothing' is suggested to be performed as stipulated in *Appendix 1: Conceptual Prism*.

1.5 You declare to commit to 'do nothing' with profound seriousness and personal engagement.

1.6 While 'doing nothing' You will avoid any attitude or action that leads to moral, physical or emotional suffering.

(Hereinafter referred to as '**doing nothing**')

## 2. Conditions for 'doing nothing'

2.1 I will duly provide suitable conditions for 'doing nothing'. I will provide You with the necessary material means: a space of 28 m<sup>2</sup>, a comfortable chair, and a reasonably quiet environment.

2.2 A host will provide You with guidance and accompaniment, a kind attitude and assistance. Upon your request the host will make sure that any vital necessities are met (hereinafter referred to as **Host**).

2.3 The Host is responsible for handling *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'*. The Host executes the terms and conditions of the present contract on my behalf, and accomplishes all applicable administrative procedures and payments. The Host ensures the integrity of *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'* as an existential situation.

## 3. Duration

3.1 The duration of 'doing nothing' being unlimited by Me, the duration of 'doing nothing' is of Your choosing, within the hours of activation as stipulated in **1.3**.

3.2 Solely in the process of 'doing nothing' You will determine the actual duration of 'doing nothing'. No formal commitments by You about the end time of 'doing nothing' will be accepted by the host.

3.3 I guarantee You access to the time by any possible means and at any moment of You 'doing nothing', and per Your request.

## 4. Compensation

4.1 The compensation amounts to € 10,25 per completed hour – meaning: 55 minutes = 0 hours, 1 hour 5 minutes = 1 hour. On Sundays and national holidays, the compensation is 200%.<sup>2</sup>

4.2 This compensation for 'doing nothing' will be transferred to Your bank account, or paid out to You in cash, before leaving *Visitors of an exhibition space are suggested to 'do nothing'*.

4.3 You will receive a proof of payment, which You sign before leaving.

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<sup>2</sup> \* Belgium's general minimum wage upon *CAO (collective labour agreement) n° 43 of the National Labour Council*, which sets the absolute national bottom amount for wages. These apply when there are no other specific sectoral agreements on minimum wages.

## 5. Privacy

5.1 An anonymized version of the present Contract may be publicly exhibited or reproduced as a part of the performance *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'* by Katya Ev.

5.2 Your private data will solely be used for administrative ends that belong to the contract and the proof of payment and thus kept private.

## 6. Final covenants

6.1 Parties agree to adopt an attitude of respect, trust and kindness towards each other, the host and all other third parties

6.2 In the case of gross misconduct by You, the present contract immediately terminates without prior notice. The Host has the right to terminate Your 'doing nothing' and have You removed from *Visitors of an Exhibition Space are Suggested to 'Do Nothing'*.

6.3 Parties mutually covenant that their mutual commitment is not subject to labour law and any specific regulations related to it. You will be responsible for the tax declaration of the compensation.

6.4 Parties agree that Belgian law applies to this contract.

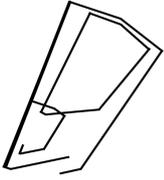
6.5 The appendices form an integral part of this agreement.

**Drawn up in 2 copies in Brussels on [date]**

Ekaterina Vasilyeva



[Name] [Surname]



Katya Ev

# VISITORS OF AN EXHIBITION SPACE ARE SUGGESTED TO 'DO NOTHING'

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## **Appendix 1. Conceptual Prism**

*Visitors of an exhibition space are suggested to 'do nothing'* deconstructs the idea of 'doing nothing' as losing time, as well as productivity as valuable – because the participants are paid for it.

In a world where economic constraint dispossesses workers of a large part of their time, *Visitors of an exhibition space are suggested to 'do nothing'* reconsiders free time as a class privilege. 'Doing nothing' here is radically opposed to the notion of *otium* advocated by ancient philosophy and later widely developed in Western thought – an aristocratic grant obtained through the exploitation of others.

On the other hand, *Visitors of an exhibition space are suggested to 'do nothing'* unpacks the social stigma associated with 'doing nothing' as marginal pastime or procrastination. Unlike voluntary and involuntary outsiders, practicing inaction and refraining from accelerated productivity is no longer dissident when getting paid.

'Doing nothing' is thus practiced by the means of the capitalist system, where money is the ultimate measurement of symbolic value.\*

*Visitors of an exhibition space are suggested to 'do nothing'* is conceived as a systemic proposal: a *modèle réduit*, or scale model, that formalizes and points out elements that belong to everyday capitalism. Using procedures, contracts, measured time, compensation, transaction, and so forth, it does not offer a commentary on 'doing nothing', but enacts it through a subversive device. It gives an objective, administrative existence to this 'doing nothing' and 'nothingness' recognized by the state, and by attributing to them monetary value, installs them in a capitalist logic.

\* 'Bullshit jobs' and the notion of 'bore-out' are to be further discussed.

K. Ev