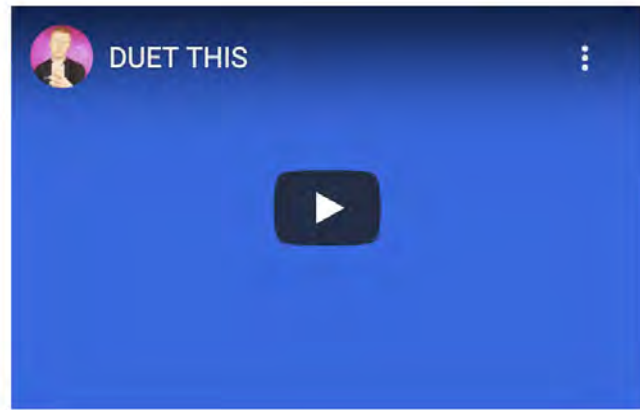
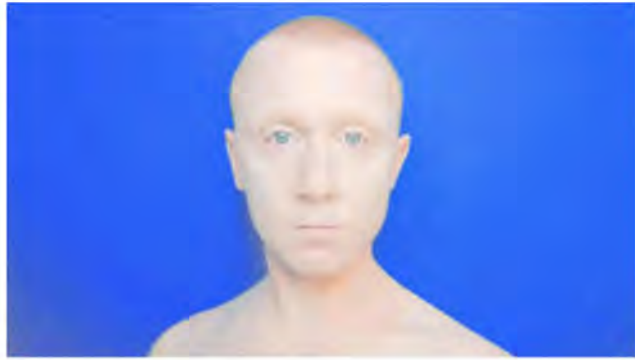


STREAMING: COLLECTIVE  
CONVERSATIONS

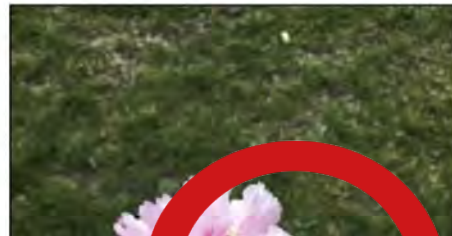
TRAGICOM



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CPIR0ciHtx4/>



Echo.



# CONTENTS

This document aims to summaries and highlight aspects of the project and provide further feedback and comments from the artists and audience.

# TRAGI.COM

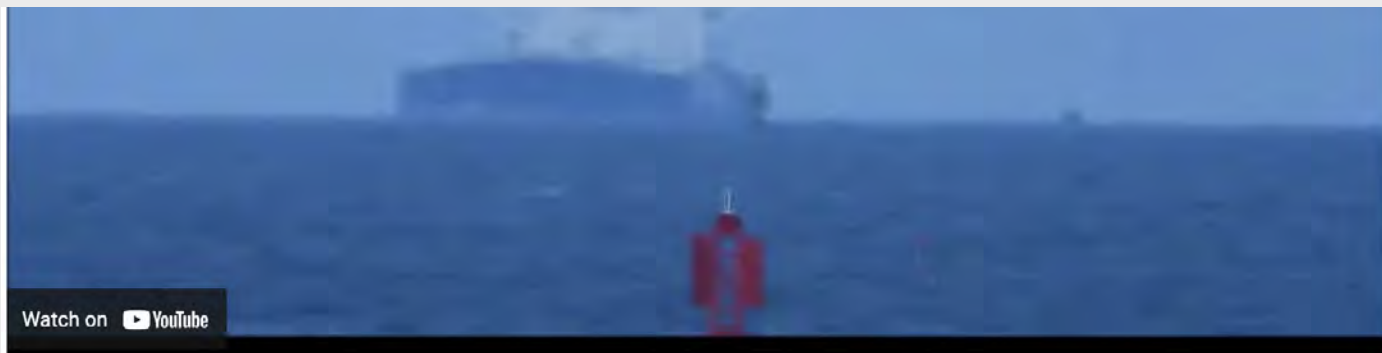


# INTRODUCTION

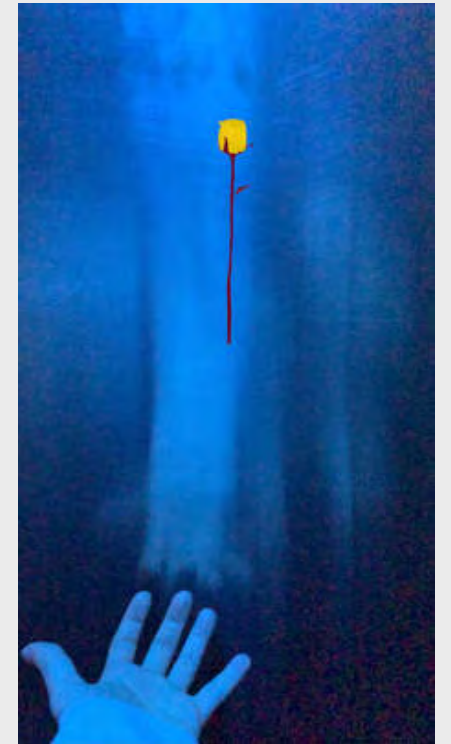
**Streaming: Collective Conversations** was a digital multimedia discussion between five artists; Stefanie Blum, Andrw Houston, Niall Stevenson, Ruth Switalski, and Stephanie Wilson.

Intended to be an experimental and alternative format to an online exhibition, the discussion took the form of a web page on [www.tragicom.weebly.com](http://www.tragicom.weebly.com). We developed the page collaboratively over the weekend of 21st-23rd May 2021 and it was open for all to follow and comment.

Taking advantage of the online setting, each of us used every addition and adjustment made to the web page to create and develop a dialogue over the course of the three days. Part exhibition, part journal, the resultant event became a manifestation of the continued conversations



\*EXTRACTS TAKEN FROM A LONGER TEXT TITLED 'WHAT IS MAGICK? SOME THOUGHTS ON CHAOS' (MAY, 2021)



around digital communication and connection we have engaged in over the past year as a collective. We reflected upon how lockdown has necessitated the need for actively connecting with others, fostering a sense of community, and sustaining our artistic practice.

Viewers were given an insight into our disseminating thoughts, ideas, and ways of working, able to dive in and out of sections of the conversation and comment, in turn generating an interactive forum for discussion.

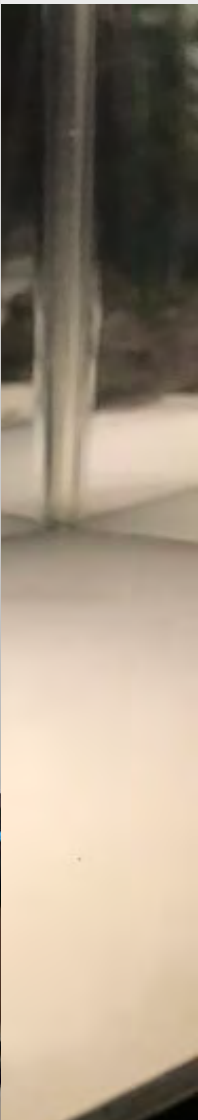
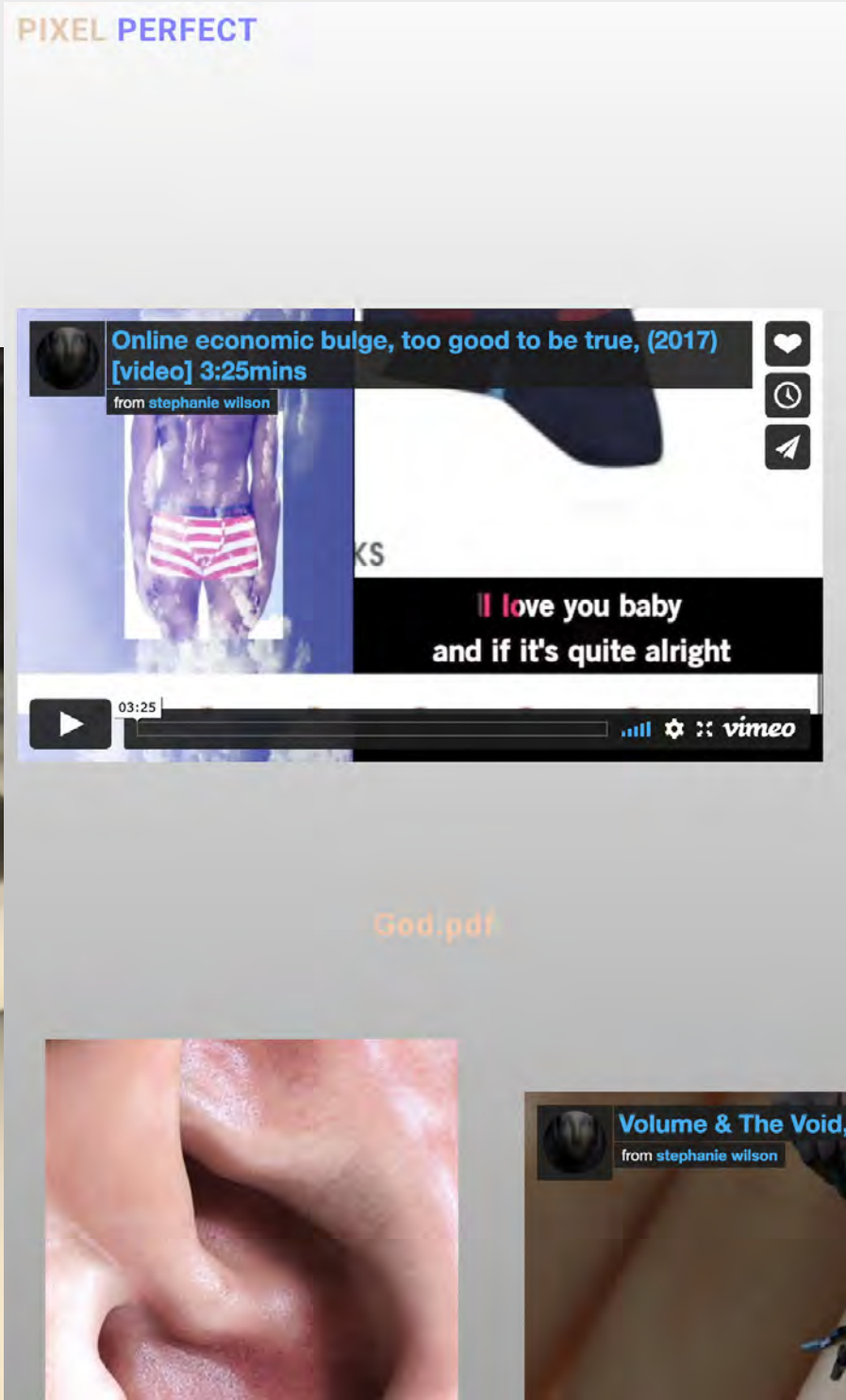
Initially, we hoped that this would be an experimental way to share creative ideas during a time of (physical) isolation and create an expanded dialogue that would open up our own collective thinking. It proved to be much more, it allowed us as artists the opportunity to reflect and revisit our own archives and artistic practices, finding themes and thoughts generating new ways of connecting with, and, creating work together, expanding our thinking and inspiring new conversations and thoughts etc.

While the conversation is now closed, we continue to welcome comments and are investigating how to take this format forward as a means of collective creation.



'I wonder if research on the ability of conscious thought to create neural pathways in the brain is relevant here? One person who has written prolifically on this subject is Dr David Hamilton, for example, and he references research on this very clearly. I am interested in how the power of thought can influence - and create - reality: creating outcomes that might appear to be magical or miraculous. The plasticity of neural pathways is interesting - we are only just beginning to scientifically understand this potential. My own interest in it is more specifically on the power of the mind to heal.'

-Fiona Cartmell, visitor





What I really enjoyed about the event was the ability to see our collaborative conversation made physical. It showed that our conversations can manifest in a non-verbal way and that relational works can develop from interaction in a shared online space.

As a collective, I believe we gained a new form of interaction that can guide our future work/shows together. Being online, this form will allow us to maximize our collaborative engagement whilst being geographically distant.

As well as the benefit that the event itself brought to us, I also think that the integration of the event into Thrive and SMHAF helped frame our process of understanding our work and ourselves. In particular, I felt the ability to be more personal and felt supported to do this.

- Andrw Houston, Artist/Educator, Tragicom Collective Member



'... magic has always remained  
a deeply ambiguous category  
hovering between demonism and  
natural science.'

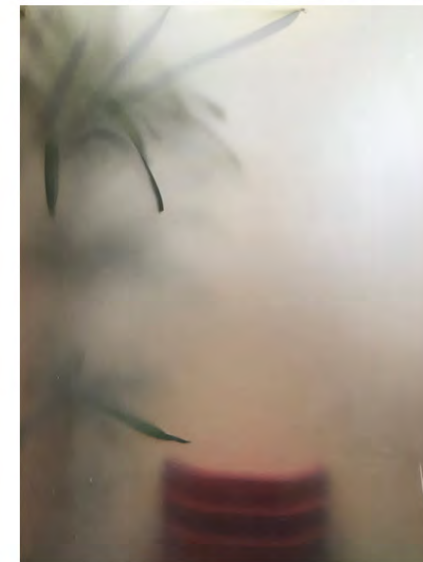
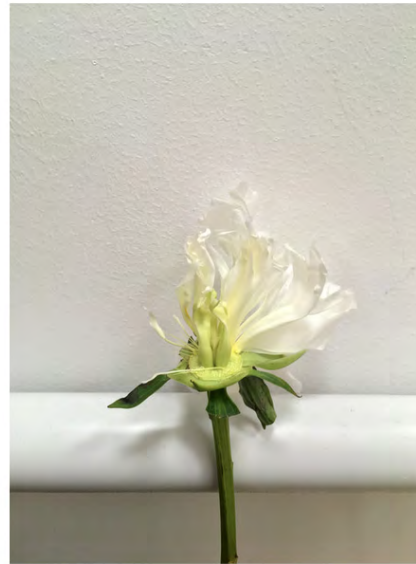
(Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Western  
Esotericism: A Guide for the Perplexed,  
p. 23)



= I'm taking photos of flowers.

I can't find relevant writing about the use of flowers contemporary art. It's all about Dutch still lives and watercolour illustrations. Maybe I will – write about them.

Do you have a recommendations for me?



'Hello! Thank you for this wonderful space!'

- Anonymous, visitor

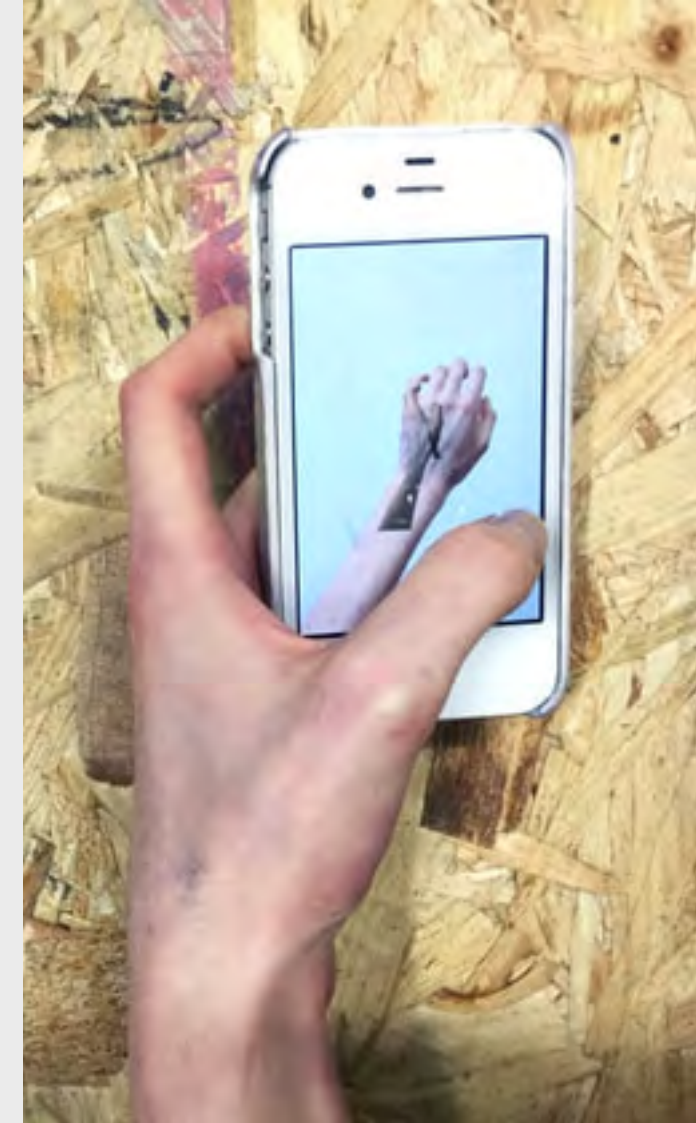
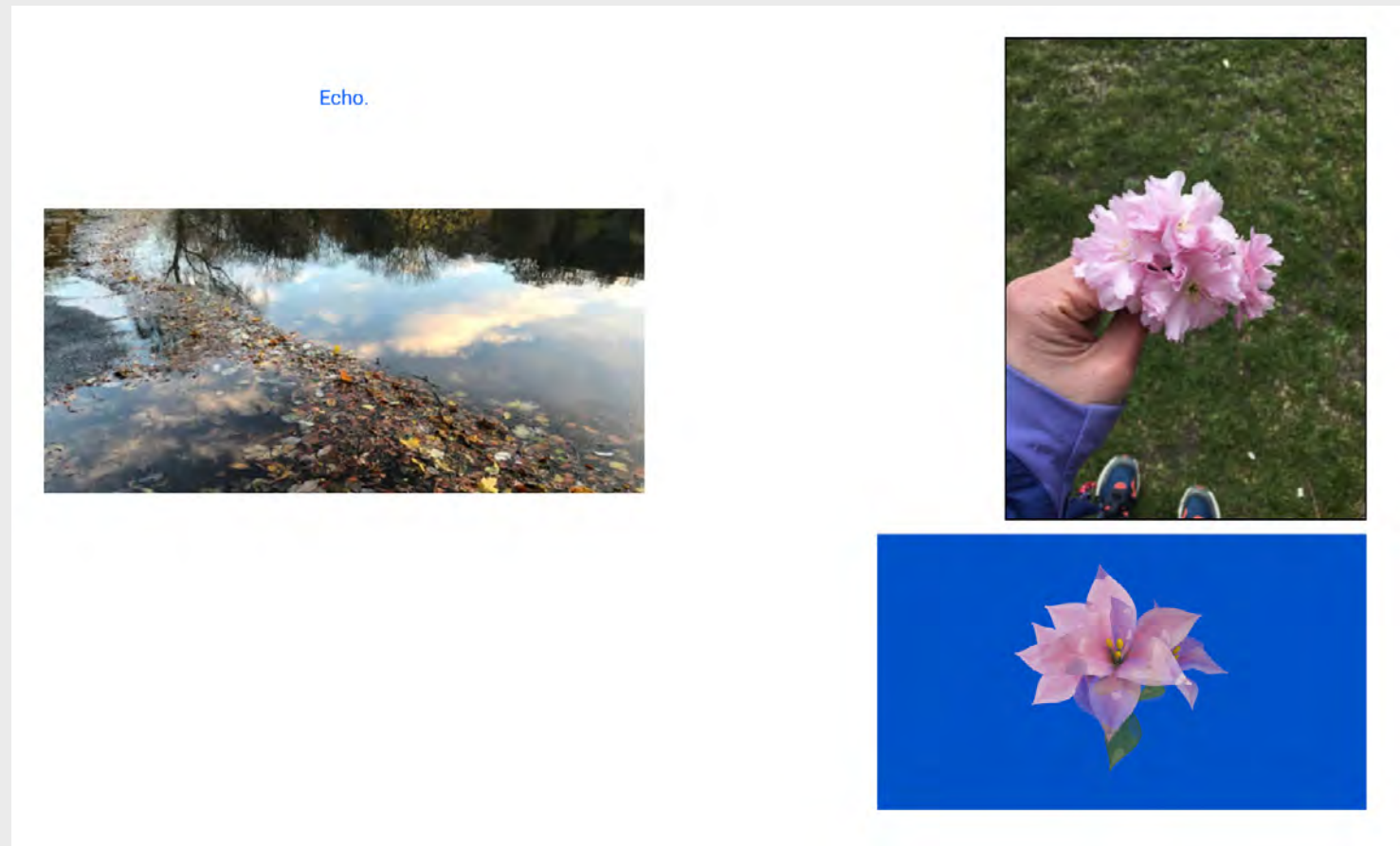
The opportunity to collaborate on a developing webpage has completely shifted our way of thinking and our plans for future projects. We've been working as a collective for four years now but Covid-19 meant that we could no longer meet in person, visit each other's studios or realise exhibitions in physical spaces. We missed out on so much, just like so many people have.

Due to our spread across the Central Belt, we knew we had to find a longer term solution; we met up via Skype at least every fortnight and used digital tools to document our progress and co-author funding applications. This has been very productive in many ways and we took it one step further for the Scottish Mental Health Art Festival. We decided that we didn't want to use the format of installing work in a space, taking photos and allowing visitors to see photos of an exhibition they can't physically visit. To us, this felt underwhelming and posed too many issues around accessibility and hindered the experience of work.


Thanks to funding by Edinburgh Thrive, we were able to commit to taking turns contributing to our online exhibition/project 'Streaming: Collective Conversations'. For it, we used a new page on our website and abandoned rules of traditional authorship and distinction between different artists' work. Instead, we weaved our work into each others, responding to pieces uploaded before our turn and thus creating a multilayered conversation. We also welcomed comments from visitors and included those on the website.

As a result, we increased visits on our website and our social media channel. The most rewarding aspect of this project however, has been to feel a sense of connection to each other and our audience. Moreover, we were able to take control and use the resources at our disposal to create a new way of exhibiting our art.


-Stefanie Blum, Artist, Tragicom Collective Member



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 **TRAGICOM  
COLLECTIVE**

**Add your comment to the  
Stream**

**Name** 

**Email**

*\* Indicates required field*

**Comment \***



With thanks to:

**Dearly departed Tragicom member  
Matthew Poland.**

Funded by Thrive Edinburgh  
& part of the Scottish Mental Health  
Art Festival (SMHAF) @mhfestival