

## Visual Essay

Marita Fraser

*Speaking With*

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Contributor details

Dr Marita Fraser is head of Sculpture and Environmental Art at Glasgow School of Art. She is an artist, a writer and a researcher exhibiting and performing internationally, including projects with Kunsthau Vienna, Städtisches Museum Engen, Atelierhaus Salzamt Linz and Perth Institute of Contemporary Art. As an artist she works across sculpture, installation, painting, performance, art writing, moving image and scores. Her research interests include 'speaking with' as a feminist method of practice, the legacies of Carla Lonzi, Carolee Schneem and Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh, and methods of feminist refusal as creative practice. In 2017 she was awarded the ArtReview Casa Wabi Residency Award.

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Received 1 November 2023

Accepted 12 November 2023

#### Abstract

*Speaking With* (2020–23) is a film which explores entangled spaces of feminist thinking and writing, responding to the work of Italian Feminist Carla Lonzi (1931–82) and Ukrainian-born Brazilian novelist Clarice Lispector (1920–77), alongside material practices of textiles, sound and movement, through moving image practice. *Speaking With* examines the spaces between the artist and her school run asking where does friendship sit within material based and

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movement practices, identifying ‘nothing’ (as it is understood by Carla Lonzi as a refusing of subjecthood within patriarchal structures), as a site to speak from collectively.

**Keywords** *Speaking With*, film, performance, scores, feminism, refusal, textiles, painting, sculpture

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Marita Fraser, *Speaking With* (2020–23)

Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15

Performers: Amanda Butterworth, Alex Lawler, Sinead Mckeown, Lori  
Silmon-Neilson

Sound: Múcha – slow notes for piano and voice

Camera: Jasmine Johnson

Assistant: Brigid McLeer

**Figure 1:** Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A close-up of two hands outstretched resting on the ground side by side on a dark reflective surface.

**Figure 2:** Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A close-up of the waist and legs of the performer inverted. The body is wearing black leggings and a cream-coloured skirt, which is dyed a number of different colours, which have blended together, including orange, pink, yellow and blue.

**Figure 3:** Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A performer crouched down and covered by a cream-coloured textile which is dyed a number of different colours including orange, pink, yellow and blue. The ankle and foot of the performer protrude from the cloth covering as does a small amount of light coloured hair from the performers head. The foot is not quite touching the ground. The performer is framed by a black background and crouched down on a dark reflective floor.

Figure 4: Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A close-up of a performer's feet and hands. The performer's toes are curling up from the ground and the tips of the fingers are slightly raised from the floor. The hands have a number of silver rings on them and a silver bracelet on one wrist. The floor the performer is standing on is dark and slightly reflective.

Figure 5: Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A close-up of a performer's mouth. The lips are slightly open.

Figure 6: Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single Channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

Two performers are moving in a space with a dark background and floor. One performer is lying on the floor wearing a dark bodysuit. The upper part of their body is wrapped in a translucent light blue tulle fabric. The second performer is wearing a black body suit and rising from the floor moving a white open mesh fabric through the space. Both performers are cropped in the image and only the top halves of their bodies are visible.

Figure 7: Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A close-up of the upper half of the performer, including their face and head. They are wearing a black body suit and have a cream textile which is dyed in patches with a mid-indigo blue colour. The performer is standing and bending their body to the side, with the textile resting on their shoulders and down the side of their body. The performers' eyes are looking to the ground.

Figure 8: Marita Fraser, film still from *Speaking With* (2020–23). Single channel, digital video, 00:08:15.

A performer is crouched down and covered by a cream-coloured textile, which is dyed a number of different colours including orange, pink, yellow and blue. The hand and wrist of the performer protrude from the cloth covering. The performer is framed by a black background and crouched down on a dark reflective floor.

## SUGGESTED CITATION

Fraser, Marita (2023), 'Speaking With', *Journal of Contemporary Painting*, 9:2, pp. 00–00, <https://doi.org/10.1386/jcp>.

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