



ARTISTIC CONCEPT

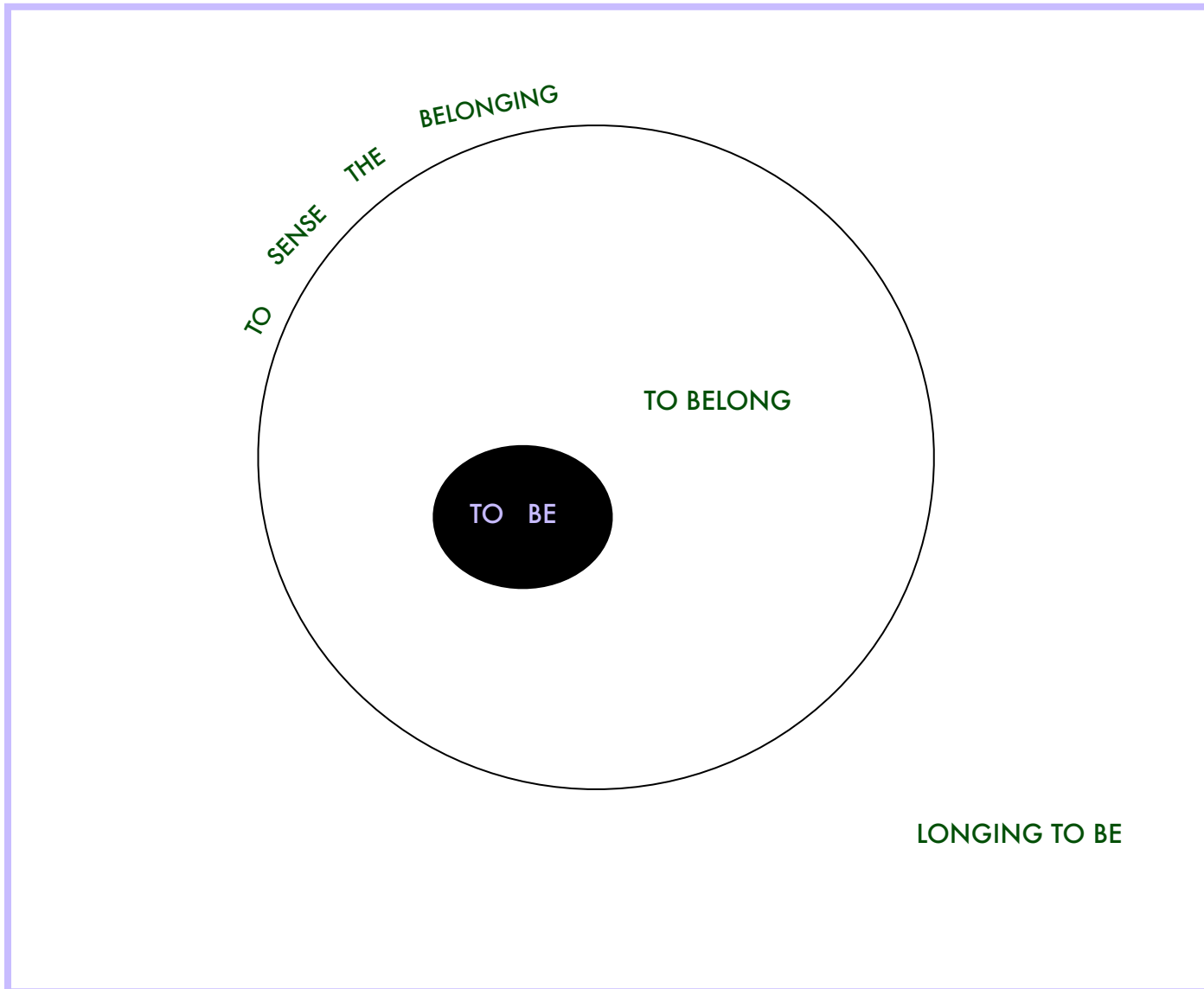
**TO SENSE THE FEELING OF
BELONGING**

INTRODUCTION

Being present is our capacity as individuals to discover meaning and purpose in all that we do, to find our authenticity and our whole selves. The most basic human needs for a happy and healthy life are food, water and shelter, but there's another essential building block required for a well- rounded society: belonging. I have noticed around me that people have started to lose a sense of belonging. I think it is visible within the current lifestyle. For instance, we are much more isolated due to the development of social media. As time loses its duration and its echo in the past, humans lose the sense of self as historical beings. We have the freedom to choose where we want to go, live and what we want to call home. Currently we are facing a global challenge due to the pandemic and many of us, especially young people/ international students are pushed to move back with their families and continue our studies online. I believe it has made a switch of our lifestyle and reshaped the way we see our home both, physically and emotionally. Home is a safety net. Our body is home to our soul, our house is home to our body, our city is home to our house. I think in this sense we have more than one home that creates a feeling of belonging. Hopefully, after this pandemic we will be able to focus on taking care of all of them.

The feeling of belonging can be seen as synonym for harmony. That also explains why one might miss their hometown, the house we grew up in, certain people, or the environment. It's something that lies in our memory as a good, pleasant experience. We miss people we feel attached to, miss to walk through the streets we used to walk, etc. The sense of belonging is the longing for harmony and I believe that is the starting point of this project.

TO QUESTION THE SENSE OF BELONGING



ABOUT THE MAKER

I'm Zane Sabule, artistic researcher, interdisciplinary artists and graduate student of Interdisciplinary Arts at Zuyd University of Applied Sciences. Art for me is a method of healing - a ritual of spiritual growth. For me growing means constantly changing and adjusting myself to something new. My work represents my roots and origins. The relationship between humans as individuals in a cultural context has been the main theme throughout my artistic practice. I often translate it in a form of video, dance or more sensory experience due to my interest questioning how human sense affect certain topics. I want to show that we as individuals are much more connected than we are apart and that's why I decided to dive deeper in the topic of belonging.

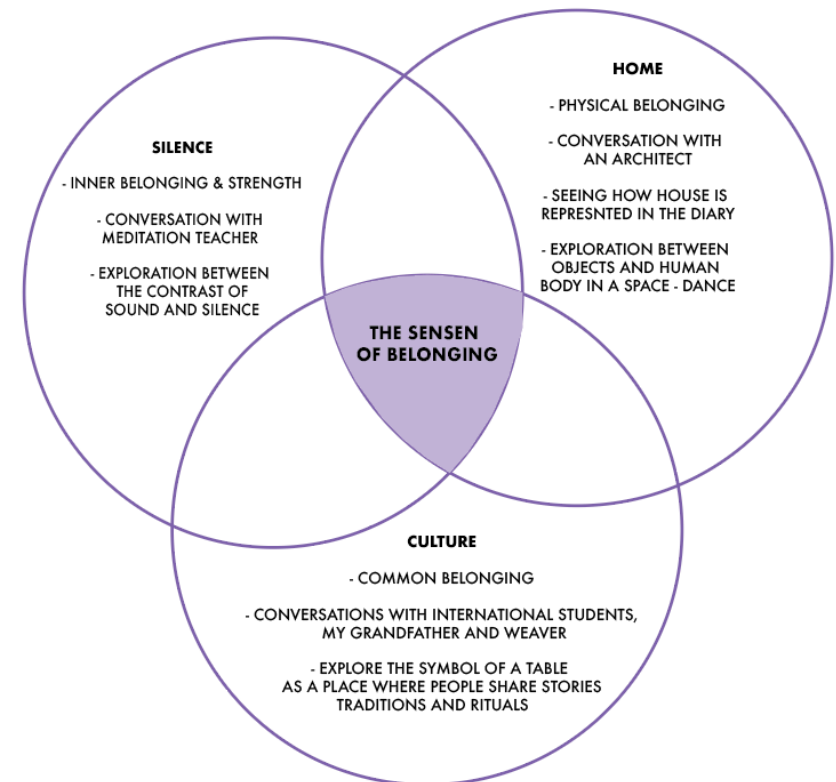
CONCEPTUAL IDEA

I want to approach the topic of belonging from three different angles - inner belonging; physical belonging and common belonging through a short film. Using my personal experience as a starting point, I wish to question and open up a conversation about the way we shape our feeling of belonging.

ABOUT THE FILM

LOGLINE

This short film shows my journey searching for a sense of belonging within myself and others. It shows how my grandfather's diary has inspired me to look deeper into this topic from three different angles - silence, home and culture, which are also the main elements that shapes my feeling of belonging.



SYNOPSIS

The core element in the film is a diary that my grandfather wrote throughout the year of 2018. He gave this diary as a present to me on Christmas that year and since then I have always wanted share the story, atmosphere or feeling of it in one of my projects. Throughout the process of creating my first short film I decided to share the story of the diary in the context of belonging. This short film is going to be filmed in split screen. This aesthetic choice also comes from my previous short film. I see this project as a follow up and that's why I've chose to keep the same format. I think the relationship between two visual stories beside each other adds another layer to this project. By mixing two screens, I try to strengthen the idea that a third perspective can be added - with this film I would like to invite the audience to think about the current changes and challenges we all are going through to redefine the concept of belonging as a physical and emotional aspect. I believe my personal experience and view on this topic can relate and touch upon many other people perspectives and rise the importance of it in the current society.

In terms of story, my idea is to capture how this diary has led me to different people and stories of belonging. Followed by my grandfather's stories I ended up searching for people who could be related to the topic of belonging from various perspectives. I want to meet people from different generations and backgrounds to have conversations with them in order to find out how others shape their definition of belonging. It is going to be captured as a conversation filmed sideways in order to to give a more natural feel. With each person's conversation I wish to represent one of the elements (silence, home, culture) that I find important in the definition of belonging for myself. Secondly, throughout my artistic research I understood that the main focus in this film will be a table. It will appear as a visual element and as a symbol for belonging. As my interest is to capture different perspectives of this topic I will use this symbol as an invitation to show how a table is not only a piece of furniture but also show how it gathers object, people, generations, stories and traditions. On the other hand, a table is going to appear at the end of the filming process when I will invite a choreographer who will help me translate the gathered material and experience in a form of dance and in that way add more personal, imaginative and abstract layer to the film.

MOTIVATION

Having gone through the experience of leaving my home country for the first time made me sense the feeling of home in a different way. Having lived abroad, I felt homesick and found myself thinking how deeply uncomfortable this process is - facing parts of myself that I had never seen before. I was longing for a harmony. When the Covid pandemic made me move back to my home country, it became clear that the topic of belonging goes hand in hand with my interest in questioning the importance of home and its elements. The purpose to stick with the guiding elements that define the sense of belonging for myself is not only my interest of sharing the experience of leaving my home country but also the need and importance of addressing the topic belonging on a more global scale, especially during the pandemic.

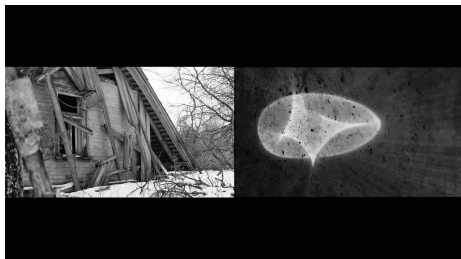
Separating the topic of belonging in three elements is an intentional choice in this project. For the first phase of this research I chose to look into four different artworks to see how the topic of belonging is tackled and expressed within these three elements (silence, home, culture). Throughout this analysis I gained more insight into various mediums and saw how the topic of belonging is seen differently by other artists. Summing up all the different perspectives helped me to find my own focus in the topic and led me back to the element of a diary that guided the development of my previous short film and is going to be the main element in this one as well.

AIM AND GOALS

Throughout this journey my goal is to capture the sense of belonging in the form of a short film that shows how the inner, physical and common belonging can be translated into the elements of silence, home and culture. With this short film I want to motivate and emphasize that the sense of belonging is not only a feeling you sense when you are at home but also it is connected to the way we belong to ourselves and our culture. I want to see how people integrate silence, home and culture in their definition of belonging and figure out how the story of my grandfather diary is connected to it. I hope to emphasise that we are much more connected than we are apart and show how my family and different generations have shaped the way I sense the feeling of belonging.

METHODS

To reach the desired result of creating a short film that combines my interests in filming, architecture, storytelling and dancing I started the process of artistic research with location scouting which led me to my first experiment “māja”. See the photos from the video below.



For this first research phase the main methods of working were filming, taking photos, recording sounds and editing gathered material. In this experiment I tried to play around the contrast of empty and full using house as a space. Using the technique of the split screen on the left - hand side of the screen I filmed an abandoned house and on the other screen I visualised how the reflection of the instrument gong creates different light shapes. This artistic experiment reminded me come back again to the core of my idea which is creating a film that is a follow up of my first short film. I came back to the diary my grandfather wrote and used it as the starting point of the film.

Another important method that I have been using and still want to keep in the further process development is keeping a reflective video diary. It helps me to gather forgotten ideas and is a good format to share my thoughts. I'm keeping it as a documentation of my process as well.

For the further process my main method is to develop a story of the film from the conversations with people and then see what else needs to be visually added - content dictates form. The more personal aspect will come in through the performance when I will try to translate the gathered material in a choreography.

THE MAIN TOOLS

- The main guiding research tool - diary
- Table as a symbol and visual element
- Filming equipment - camera, lights, microphones, tripod
- Human body as a form of expression

WHERE ?

The project is going to be filmed in Latvia. Not only because of my aim to visualise the importance of culture in this project but also due to the practical reasons related to the limitations associated with the covid pandemic. This choice also relates the way I want to connect my project to the Latvian culture. I have picked certain locations and people that represent a specific tradition or ritual in order to emphasise the feeling of a common belonging. On the other hand, many scenes are going to be filmed indoors in order to capture the atmosphere around the conversations and question the sense of belonging through the physical perspective - house.

My idea is to present the project in a format of an online event where I take the audience along my research process. The topic of belonging is an advantage for this format due to the fact that most of us now are working from home and to guide the viewer through my process can be more participatory experience.

To share the film with a wider audience I want to put it in a CD or another analog format in order to send it to people's home. To promote it and reach more young people I will create an instagram account about the film and its content. I see it as a way to highlight the topic of this film and approach my audience in a more personal way. I can imagine that this "film package " (including a CD for instance) could include a small description of a work and maybe a small object that represents this film. For example, if I have captured the process of



weaving the traditional clothing in the film then I add a small piece of a weaved fabric next to the description and CD. I believe that grasp the feeling of this film and gives more sensory experience as well as personal approach.

WHO FOR ?

Approaching the sense of belonging throughout three different perspectives (silence - home for the inner belonging; house - home for the physical belonging; culture - home for the common belonging), I want to reach, young people around my age (16 - 26). Especially those who have gone through the same challenge as myself - returning back home to continue the studies online. I have seen that young people around me are in search or in a need of more presence; stillness and self-awareness in order to focus. With this project I want to show how the physical and common sense of belonging also affects the inner wellbeing or the inner belonging. The element of diary plays an important role because it questions how our families and culture builds our sense of belonging and also represents the differences in various generations.

WHOM WITH ?

This project is going to be executed in collaboration and support from iArts and my external coach Rosa Vrij whose practice often takes the form of installation works or in performances. She also works as a distributor for "Video Power", a production and distribution platform in audiovisual arts in Maastricht. Rosa Vrij will be guiding me through the artistic research and helping me with the script development. Her practice is shaped in the form of installation works or in performances. Rosa is currently working on a performative project that researches the relationship between the human body, space and architecture. As my research topic draws similarities with her practice, I believe our collaboration is a match.

Since part of my idea is to share other stories related to belonging in this film I have found a few people who will be a part of it. In the list below you can find why I chose them :

- **Pēteris Brencēns** - my grandfather who wrote the diary and inspired me to continue to stick with this topic. His memories and stories of the house he built himself is going to be a part of the film.

- **Andris Kronbergs** - an architect that supports the idea that a house is not only an object but also a representation of the people who live there. He takes in account that the human senses play a big role in a context of space and in his work he plays around with elements of light and shade as well as unusual and unequal shapes.
- **Raivo Sabulis** - a meditation teacher who believes that inner wellbeing starts within the sense of belonging to yourself.
- **Lauma Krastiņa** - a woman who weaves traditional clothing and lives in a house that has survived a war. Her view on the sense of belonging goes through the way she belongs to Latvian culture.
- **Paula Gaile and Dārta Sakārne** - international students from Latvia who reflect on how it is to go through the experience of leaving your home country and, due to the global pandemic, return back home.
- **Ieva Beatrise Vilkaūša** - a choreographer who is going to help me translate the experience and material in a form of dance.

GENERAL PLANING

By the beginning of April my plan is to meet all six people that are going to be part of the conversations and besides that keep creating reflective video material for myself. I will also start to film the shots that are connected to the symbol of table and try to include more of the personal side of the story - what does sensing the feeling of belonging means to me and how did I ended up researching the diary; From the end of the April I want focus more on the editing of the material and try to finish the film by the beginning of May. In the middle of May I will present my work online and also try to transform it in a more physical form of presentation. (See the table in the next page)

ENTREPRENEURIAL ASPECT

Producing a short film includes several entrepreneurial aspects. Not only regarding the production phase but also post-production process. Firstly, since I started this project I have been already gained few contacts that has given me confidence to continue sharing my thoughts, process and work further on. I believe that's why I keep my project partly uncertain. I think that the more I share my story the more recognition and support I will get. This experience has also challenged me to learn how to "sell " my idea and make it appealing. Secondly, I'm responsible for the budget (see the table below) where most of the expenses will go for the production phase and PR. To promote my work online I will create an instagram account that captures the process of film development as well as promotes the availability to get the final work in an analog version. Creating an online event is another approach how I will support my project to reach broader and more international audience.

GENERAL PLANING FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

	March	April	May	June
Artistic concept (written) deadline	09.03.			
Go/no go moment	15;16.03.			
Meeting with external coach	19.03			
Preparation for the conversations	17.03.- 24.03			
Conversation with Pēteris Brencēns	25.03.			
Conversation with Lauma Krastiņa	30.03			
Conversation with Raivo Sabulis		02.04		
Conversation with Dārta Sakārne		07.04		
Conversation with Andris Kronbergs		08.04		
Conversation with Paula Gaile		09.04		
Looking back at the material - general editing		12.04-16.04		
Working with choreographer		19.04- 23.04		
Start editing		26.04.		
Prepare for the CPE			03.05.	
CPE			10.05 - 28.05	
Documentation				07.06

BUDGET

	Who is paying ?	iArts	In kind	Other funding
TOTAL:	€500,00			
CPE :				
Expenses to make "film packages "				
CD's (or any other analog format)	One CD price €0.69			
Transport/delivery expenses	Depends on location			
Other expenses :				
Tripod	€42,40			
Stabiliser	€19,15			
Lights	€100,00			
Microphone	€33,00			
Transport				
Coaching TOTAL :	900€ / 20h			
Rosa Vrij :				
Extra income from freelance work at "MINT" company	€250,00			
Extra stuff on set such as actors, clothing, assistant				