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Lockdowns

Claudia Brazzale

Abstract

A short response to the sounds of lockdowns during a session of a Zoom Writing Salon initiated by Michelle Dent which involved eight former colleagues from the Department of Performance Studies at New York University.

Deliveroo's scooters, Ocado's vans, double-decker buses, cars, and ambulances whizzing by, Planes, lots of planes, descending.

The sudden realization that their sounds are gone.
The soft and woolly sound of a city suddenly gone quiet.

The same calming silence of a snowfall,
With its sense of communal peace descending.

Broken once a week by our clapping and banging of pots and pans from our doorsteps,
Timidly scrutinizing each other for the first time.

Deliveroo's scooters, Ocado's vans, double-decker buses, cars, ambulances, and planes
eventually returned and the clapping and banging faded away.

As the third lockdown descended,
Deliveroo's scooters, Ocado's vans, double-decker buses, cars, ambulances, and planes remained.

While the city stopped, its sounds continued to move but
I no longer feel my neighbours.

About the author

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