

 “Den of Web”.

creating intimacy while being apart.

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Image description: a large drawing of sticks or tree branches that come together from both sides to form a triangular peak where they meet at the top. This image takes up more than half of the page. Layered on top of the image of the branches is a yellow text box. This yellow text box has black writing inside that reads:

“Suggested instruction

1. Grab the largest piece of fabric you can find (i.e. bedsheet, duvet cover, blanket, throw).
2. Create a cosy enclave by entirely covering the backs of your body and your device.
3. Once you feel confident that the virtual Den of Web is built, ask your group members to share a ghost story they know/experienced or any other memorable stories.

\*This activity was first tested out with the artists of Constellations 20/21 as part of developing collaboration toolkits (see the zoom meeting image).”

Layered on top of the branches image is the zoom screen shot referred to in the text. There are eight screens with one person visible on each screen. The people are of various ages and ethnicities. Everybody in the meeting/video chat has a blanket/fabric over their head and behind them, enclosing themselves in with their screen.

Underneath are a couple of paragraphs of writing written in black which read:

“The pandemic has shifted almost everything to a digital realm as physical gatherings came under restriction. Our presence is fragmented into the volatile Zoom complex, although this could be the only social space for many. Not to mention that those video call techs are designed for being productive and efficient rather than for cherishing social values and complicated emotional exchanges. Unprecedented challenges have weighed upon socially engaged art practices and collaborative processes. How can we still maintain our human connections tight while being apart?

Den of Web is a simple activity that attempts to build the moment of intimacy and a sense of connectedness between collaborators/participants beyond the physical distance. It’s a woven structure of digital enclaves where fragmented bodies are fully committed to the other side of the screen. The social energy is to be directed to the digital arena by minimising any distraction from the physical surroundings. Intimacy is created by condensing the emotional and mental distance between people in collaboration.”