

Interview: Lili

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Attendance:

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Lili

Emotions have been added into the transcript as i.e. [*sadness*] and interviewers have been placed in bold and italicised. Any sections that need to be checked for accuracy such as phrases in other languages or names of places I couldn't confirm the spelling of have been highlighted in red.

Recording starts mid-sentence

L: ... Oh! Alerted me. Yeah so I came to a first visit was in 1993 when I came for five months to practice my English. I had just graduated, finished my teacher training in Mathematics and physics and I actually had been actively teaching for a year in a half in a secondary school in Hungary when I got this opportunity to come out. It was quite a difficult thing to arrange in that time because Hungary wasn't in the EU. In fact not until 2004 Hungary joined the EU so I was like ten years before that and as I said you couldn't get a work permit from Eastern Europe. The only possibility was to do some voluntary work or work as an au-pair and I really wanted to practice my English and my arrangement was to come for five months to work in a Christian conference centre down in Leicestershire as a voluntary worker. So I basically got accommodation and you know sort of loadings and pocket money of twenty one pounds a week but it was a wonderful place to be. It was a wonderful place to be, it was full of international kind of students and it was a wonderful group you know. There were my age young people from basically all around the world from Switzerland to Brazil and Scandinavia and Slovakia and from everywhere and some people from Scotland. Yeah I met my husband there, he's Scottish so we started a long saga of coming back and through, back and through between the two countries and it was getting progressively difficult for me to get back here. They were really strict on immigration so I ended up doing a bit of au-pair just later on so I didn't have to go home again because invited me to come up to Scotland to meet his parents and by that time I'd been over the border so many times that you know I was taken off the pass and just immigration was getting hard. That's how strict it was, you know you couldn't really travel before Hungary joined the EU. It was really difficult to spend longer times here. Yeah and sort of a year and a half later we got married and I really much wanted to live in Hungary so I really asked to learn some Hungarian and I had a little flat in Hungary and we lived there for half a year and he went to a teacher and he acquired quite good Hungarian but to get a job was very very difficult for him because my likes gardening which is not... That's what he does and that sort of job, a Hungarian can do it and it sort of never really worked out. He could have taught English but he didn't want to do that sort of job so anyway it wasn't easy and then eventually at three years into the marriage we decided I think we should have children and it was just really the thing of... Would not have worked definitely in Hungary so I had to decide to come over which was to live here which was at that time I was always telling myself I'm not losing Hungary I'm gaining another one. I'm going to have two countries which is true. You do. You do if you live between other countries. More and more often happens that you meet people like this that coming to another countries and then move on here, you know this cosmopolitan, international, very ????. Not so rare anymore than they used to be. Every summer, every single year we go home except now in the Covid years so we just actually booked the family tickets to go to Hungary in July and this will be three years that I haven't seen my parents. They are both alive, they're getting older and I haven't seen them for three years so will be looking forward. So that was Covid, that wasn't the Brexit that was Covid yeah.

LR: Have you got children then?

L: Yeah so I have three children, two of them, two boys who are both in University and we had a little surprise, a younger girl, she just started secondary school.

LR: Lovely. Where did they go to University.

L: Oh, one of them is Yes uh huh, so one of my sons studying mechanical engineering and he's doing his masters at RGU and the other one is doing, he did architectural engineering at ... and then after that he's just completing this year his construction management masters.

LR: Oh kay! Oh very good.

L: So two Engineers. My father is an engineer and I'm quite scientific minded. Maths and Physics is I used to teach and that's kind of my core subjects and then art later on yes.

CH: Kind of an odd combination that's interesting.

L: Yes it is. It is unusual isn't it but I mean there is that intersection between art and science that maybe is my territory. Somewhere a bit more than that.

CH: Do you want to share your picture Lucia.

LR: Yes I was going to say, talking about art let's go to. Oh you're host disabled...

CH: Oh that's me sorry sorry. Ok share screen. Ok, alright.

LR: Ok, I'll share it. Can you see it? Oh! It's upside down sorry!

L: No it's not upside down.

CH: It's not upside down.

LR: It's too big I mean sorry, I just try and see if I can minimise it a bit so we can.

CH: Oh that's perfect.

LR: Yeah?

CH: Yeah that's perfect. Ok.

L: Yeah this is my poor attempt at stick men. *[laughing]*

CH: It's your what sorry? Say it again?

L: My poor tangled up stick men.

LR: Yeah we can start from here. Can you describe to us and explain it to us a little bit?

L: Yes, so it's... For me it's a figure who... *[sigh]* It's more like just an... An expression of feeling quite restrained and tangled up and unable to move and... knotted up you know. Kind of tangled up figure who... umm...

LR: is it a human figure but there is also something else or is it all human?

L: Urm there is a kind of jug.

LR: Yes, I thought so but I wasn't sure. That's interesting.

L: It's like tangled up around the morning up around the morning cup of tea and then you can't go anywhere and you know... you can't go anywhere, you can't do the things, you can't meet your friends, you can't really see your family and...

LR: Is that Covid or Brexit or both?

L: Urm... It's Covid really. I mean... I think... I don't know, in my case Brexit itself alone would not have stopped me from come and go because I'm already a resident here. What Brexit it did to us I think just to arouse this quite mean feelings from Europe I think. Especially when it came to Covid. Now admittedly we had some strings that was so... so by the spreading on the continent but I also thought there was this extra [*nervous laugh*] means from every country in the EU once we left. You know after Brexit because for example there were, in the past year, not so long ago it's changed but for a long long time the Hungarian entry rules for foreigners that you could... They're different for everybody else than for us. So it was allowed for anybody to enter Hungary on roads, on train, on erm, yep but if you were flying in and specifically if you were flying in from the UK you had to face with lots of restrictions. You had to have the testing before there, after, report, oh I don't know what else so basically couldn't go but if I somehow got the car and drove all the way or if you lived in Switzerland or Austria or Germany or wherever you could enter to Hungary but not from here.

LR: And you thought that was because of Brexit?

L: I think it was yes. I think partly it was for that. I think there is those undertones that in just now that urm, yeah we make it a bit difficult for them, from the UK. [*chuckles*] That's what I think yeah. I mean not for Hungarians from the UK, generally make it difficult for UK residents and citizens so I fall into that.

CH: The person at the top looks, is that their feet or hands coming out the top?

L: That's the two feet and it's a very elongated figure. Yeah it's not a long figure very obviously. It's just the... yeah...

LR: Why are the feet sticking out?

L: Urm... Behind the jar.

LR: Ok. Whereas the two arms, one is grabbing the jug handle and the...

L: The other is on the other side.

LR: Yeah that's right. Is it waving, the other one?

L: Waving... Struggling more like.

LR: Ok. So is this your feeling especially during lockdown right? Is that represent your feeling during lockdown?

L: Yes but it was just urm... it was kind of by the later part of the lockdown, when you were starting to really hit that you can't meet with other people. Urm... I could see on my daughter that the first half a year was quite fine, you know in and out lockdown, back to school but by the time it comes to a year and a half, we really seem to be permanently changed a bit and even now. Very much so I feel that we are different. We urm... it doesn't even really remember now. I don't remember the feeling so much to have over that busy social life that we used to have. Of course I know we used to have it but we kind of really got used to this... We live in a countryside in a remote location so any friends who come and go to play with my daughter or visit us other children they have to arrange to come. There's no bus or nothing. You have to, you can't walk even to the nearest village so everything is arranged and done by car so we used to have kids come and go and we are going to others and now we are just us. Of course she meets children in the school but she doesn't even have the desire or doesn't feel anymore strange that, you know plenty of things to do here and she's not board, she's on the Ipad a lot and reading and whatever but it's just a different. Yeah different. Yeah we don't socialise and the location even when we do it's such... Yeah just realised ahh! It's wonderful! [*laughing*]

LR: What about you, do you socialise less too or?

L: Yes a little bit less, I mean I kept incredibly busy in this two years. I had two exhibitions to prepare for and before that I had a very busy project, I have a studio outside that needed insulating and yeah, it took many many months to get it right and I was very busy with that. Before that I was home teaching my daughter from January to April and then the year before in 2020... when the Covid started, that was my graduation year so it was a nightmare to manage degree show time. It was so tiring, on top of the ordinary degree show work but in this

case you know we wasted a bit of time, a week at least just moving out of Art School and settling in at home and then everybody had to manage their own degree show with this remote... It doesn't really work for visual work. To show your work on a picture to a lecture and get a useful feedback is... I mean we did all, everybody tried their best, lecturers as well but it's not the same is it. So we had the degree show and then that was tiring enough because I had to make everything digitalised and that was an extra big week or two. Of course we didn't just make photos and put them into a file and that's it... annotations and ... you know it was quite a lot of work to make it like a proper portfolio. So with all that extra work and the missed time and on top of it, when everything was over then they started to make the digital degree show which was a total nightmare because the space we use was glitching all the time and so by the later part of the process I couldn't get on daytime at all. I had to start at 11 at night and work through the night but of course my daughter was also at home schooling and by that time a couple of months into it so I couldn't just ignore her in the beginning. In the first month I was just do whatever you want but I couldn't do it by then so I had to be up day and night and we had a deadline but we couldn't... It was impossible to do it because I just. Every single time I got logged in I lost my data and what I did the previous day and I repeat it at night and then I couldn't check it. So I just and I kept losing it and so it was very stressful because I thought I totally missed the boat because I missed the deadline and a couple of days after the deadline they said oh well there's another deadline and I went through the same process again and then again for that... yes that was it. The third deadline came and somehow I managed to do it by then you know, the technology allowed me so I was very tired by the end of that. So that was something that was rest of 2020 and then in the autumn I was out in Florence for two months, that was beyond wondering, it was amazing. It's part of the ..., so that was wonderful. I was out there September, October and then when I came back I was, I had some muscular illness so I was totally. [*laughing nervously*] I was totally knocked out with painkillers for two months. I ended up here, and then the following 2021 it started with the primary schools going to home education so urm... and I really thought I have to take that seriously and just embrace it. So because (...) is the only primary school age children in the household while the boys are away she couldn't really entertain herself. I couldn't expect her to do that for weeks and weeks and months and then just to be herself and you know get on with the work and what not. So I put everything else on hold and I became her little buddy and we a lot of, we were very successful but the way it was like half an hour work, half an hour gaming or playing or whatever, and yeah she produced beautiful work and she was happy. I managed to keep her happy all the way to April when she could go back to school. It was very useful you know I really got involved in what she's doing and she did really well. As I say that she was happy but it meant from morning till evening I was occupied with that. Either with the school work side or the playing or whatever, doing things together. So that was it and then came... Yeah and then I started to do some artwork, finally May/June but you know I didn't do anything for almost a year or for a long time and I just started to write. I should have narrowed it down in that time. Suddenly I felt again, oh so unrestrained, although when I finished the degree show,, I was quite in an abstract way, but suddenly I was working an abstract way. Yeah that time, later I was suddenly woooo! Now suddenly I want to do portraits and everything and of course at the minute, it's a bit closer to what I'm actually doing. Meanwhile my studio needed some attention because I knew that in this lockdown times I won't be able to go anywhere, to use any other facilities so my studio was totally uninsulated so I could use it in good weather but in winter it's more than freezing, it's just incredibly cold so somebody, gave me insulation materials that they didn't need anymore so I thought ah here is the chance. So I thought I'm going to spend a few weeks, upgrading the studio which I did but it wasn't a few weeks, it was months. Just you know, it just extended. It was a much bigger job and in fact I couldn't finish it. It's still... I'm looking out in the window. It's still, it's got tarpaulin over it but it's much closer to finish and it was certainly became warm. Sort of couple of layers of insulation on the outside of the building but the last year is what I have to do in this year. So I did all that and then I picked up a week long work for painters, like was advertised for painters at the British art show at Aberdeen Art Gallery which I only applied for because it was only a week long and I thought ok I have a week and it was so... because I never ever came across a job advertisement that was specifically for painters but I am so I thought no I have to try this. Also because of they paid good money, they applied British Artist Union recommended wages so I needed money for all the material that I used for the studio work so that was a wonderful long week and I met a group of interesting people and we formed the creative kind of group so it was really really fruitful experience. So coming to mid-October I really had to start to work towards these two exhibitions so then in the past, from November, December, January and now in February, in the past four months I worked in my studio, worked on my artwork basically every single day from morning to evening and you know... I didn't think about anything else I just, just

about the family managed. Most of the things without me. It was just totally immersed in it but I created a huge body of work so I've got about now 30 works and ten of them is done in which will open day after tomorrow. So Saturday it's open for the public.

LR: In Aberdeen?

L: In Edinburgh, the Royal Scottish Academy and I have another thirteen works I took for my first solo exhibition and in they have something called the small gallery which is actually...

CH: Yeah yeah.

L: It's a very... lots of people passes it so it's a place where lots of people see my work. They don't really sell but... So I'm very very pleased to my work is hung up there now. In theory it's opened on Saturday, passed Saturday but there was no opening. This is again Covid. There was no opening, it's just... I was there yesterday and they were still gluing on the text about you and all that stuff. So it's probably ready now. They only managed to put up eight works so I still have another five, six, seven at home? Seven that are good, that I really like...

CH: Lili can I ask why you didn't put any... Your drawing there's no colour in it?

L: It was a quick drawing and it was also, I mean for me colour is joy and there's not much joy in this drawing. It doesn't express any... It's quite a bleak drawing. I would say it's quite a bleak feeling that it expresses so... Erm... Yeah just missing... Company, socialising. I think we were all the same aren't we? I mean probably most of us.

CH: Why did you use a jug? Why did you put a person in a jug?

L: I was drawing in the early morning and I was hoping for a cup of morning tea and the Jug was a bit more easier than I don't know drawn than a mug I should say.

CH: Is it a metaphor for anything or does it represent anything?

L: Erm... I mean the jug which I say in theory should have been really more a mug is for me, is the home, is the comfort, yeah it's a homeliness but at this point you just getting tired of always being at home and yeah that comfort but it represent... Yeah it basically represent for me the home, my house and being at home and it's normally a very wonderful experience, I mean I like being at home but I somehow shows this drawing that it comes to a point when you're just going around in circles. You don't have company. When lockdown started I was in my final year at and so I spent the previous four years almost every day at ...and every ??? ??? at ...and always in a Studio with others. So we always shared or you know, or how we were and the feelings and you know you could. I always had company just to chit chat or, just a bit reflect how I'm getting on with the work or ideas or just the normal. So it was a big contrast to that, to suddenly be at home and you know having an eleven year old, a ten year old for company. My husband kept working so he wasn't home all the time and that's it kind of.

CH: Ok, is that a head at the top?

L: Yes.

CH: Ok so you've got no face on it as well.

L: No no face no.

CH: Why is that?

L: I'm trying to express just... I think it's a general... it's more like how my thoughts are going around around. It wasn't so much about a person which I would associate with the face, it was more about this feeling that kind of erm... my whole body was kind of feeling that... so I tried to draw here a body and not a face, just a body that represents how my thoughts going around and because they don't have an outlet, another person to have them on, you know they became something that just goes... [sigh] goes around in circles and tangles but doesn't lead anywhere and that's what the elongated body is and this whole knotted up, tangled up stick. It really is just, my thoughts. So it didn't need a face it was... urm... yeah... It was just this... urm... Something that didn't yield any

product, that kind of thought process but just urm a bit of urm... [sigh] Going around, becoming a bit compulsive, becoming a bit unproductive. I mean I had lots of young people, my sons and my sons friends who were all socially stuck in separate places or at home or in some kind of accommodation and then some of some of them became quite compulsive over the Covid you know. Have to have their things really tidily, shoes to the angle and everything, pencils everything's tidied up. It's just... you know.

LR: Can I ask one thing because I think the picture. Can you hear me?

L: Yeah I can hear you a bit better now.

LR: OK sorry, the picture is really expressive and I think it does convey this sense of things are going circle without an outlet and it's almost like it's restrictive like being led into something that doesn't lead anywhere but just going in a vicious circle. On the other hand, when you were telling us what you did during all the Covid period, it sounds like you did a lot of things. Like you have achieved a lot of things so how do the two go together? Is one more like your mood but in reality you did achieve a lot of things or, how do the two stuck up together?

L: Urm... This was a very early morning, still in bed drawing when I reflect on the experience you know and I didn't draw it long ago but I could have drawn it most days. Then I climb out of that mood and I've got a lot of stuff to do. I still not going to tell myself not to do things and I actually had to do a lot of things. Some things that were laid out that I had to do you know my tickets were bought to go to Florence. My daughter has to be taken care of and taught. That insulation had to be put on so the coming winter if Covid was still going I will be able to work somewhere. Then the two exhibitions were looming so I had to do them but... so that was lucky in some ways because I had to keep busy and no chance not to do anything yeah.

CH: Can I ask the way you describe your drawing makes me think of a snail or something like that. Like a snail slowly coming out and coming back in again or do you get that?

L: I didn't but for me it was just so tangled up somebody that cannot really move anymore.

CH: Ok, can I ask you as well when the UK voted to leave the EU?

L: Ok, it's maybe not what you're expecting. I think I had a right to vote. I certainly supported in that time Brexit and it's yeah. So I... I was surprised how the whole lot came along, the possibility that we leave the EU because it started like a stupid joke by Nigel Farage. It was a ridiculous idea and then it started to gain more and more... possibility. It was also the disgusting element of that it was just trying to cover up the immigration because it's just started in those times you know, you could get the news of what's happening on the borders of the Mediterranean but it wasn't really mainstream just yet and then there was a lot of... urm... [sigh] Dislike of Eastern Europeans and the coming and taking our jobs and it was very politically motivated, I could feel that. My folks and polish they were here before and it was fine. It's just really politicians made that up. When Brexit it came but then it took a long time to negotiate and I think my husband, he never liked being in the EU and it took years to get Brexit off. I started to see his point you know, part of what I told you about. I started to see his point because it's actually true that in so many places... So many trades and so many parts of the UK life... I find that people in the olden days would say oh but you know but here are the EU regulations so we have to do. Most trivial things, like you know I wanted to buy some chickens, I went to that farm and they told me that here you go, masses of hens and you can take one pound a hen. I thought how can that be that you're selling them when they're young and they say oh that's an EU regulation. Chickens have to be culled when they're twelve months old and it's completely senseless but we have to do it and this sort of things came around, in so many places and so many rules that people just said oh you know we have to do it that's how it is. It's EU regulations and then, so when over the time kind of started to take over this notion that you know, why not. Here is this crazy possibility turning to be a real possibility that we can leave the EU. How would be life if it did not have this rules affecting every little part of our life. How could it be, how would people feel if they didn't have to say oh this is a stupid EU regulation. Makes no sense but we have to abide to it. What if people can make their own rules and if it's stupid then it's stupid but at least we made it. I started to feel like that. I don't like being told what to do myself you know. I don't like to be prescribed silly things... I'd rather make my own mistakes and I started to think, since we had the chance, why don't we just try and be our own people and not to have to urm... submit

ourselves to these rules that don't come from here and they don't make sense here as well. I have to say that I'm not sure if I would still vote for Brexit but I did vote then because I didn't really think through what's happening in the education. I mean higher education especially. Obviously I knew there won't be Erasmus if we're going out, if we do Brexit. I didn't really understand how much connection there is between the academia, between the Universities, between the continent and here and it's maybe going to be quite difficult. I think it was, I wasn't a very loud voice talking about this during just before Brexit. They should have been louder, started a bit late and I was just one of those people who didn't really see that far. Brexit in the practical they didn't affect me, I didn't check of course I could. I am a resident. So and they didn't... in a personal way it didn't have anything that deterred me to vote for Brexit and the other thing that really inspired me is that we're going to get back the fishery rights, the full rights to all voters and that's never happened. So I am being taken for a fool. Yeah that was a very very attractive prospect.

LR: Can I ask if it's panning out like you envisaged? Sorry is it working the way you think it would work? Brexit. Now that's being implemented.

L: There are some things that are not certainly like fisheries rights back to the voters. No that doesn't work, it's a big and painful part that I think didn't happen and I think it's never going to really happen... Urm... I am upset about how difficult it became for young people to go to... to come and go for example those students who came from the EU and studied here with us and now they cannot just... If they leave they might not necessarily be able to come back. You know they could stay but yeah I think that really is a sad thing and generally the higher education. That's why I would vote differently this time. Yeah. On the other hand I really like that we don't have the rules I have to say, yeah I like being our own people and that in turn lets just build our own rules and abide to them. That's me.

CH: Lucia come closer to the microphone.

LR: Yeah, me?

CH: Yeah you.

LR: Ok sorry can you hear me now?

CH: Yep.

LR: Sorry the internet is probably not the best one here. No I was just curious since you mentioned young people and your kids are young too. So do your sons or kids have two passports?

L: They could. They have dual nationalities yes, they only have one passport but if it was, yeah they would. We never thought this through in this way but if they wanted we could get them a Hungarian passport as well yeah so in fact it wouldn't really affect us.

LR: Yeah but it would affect all the UK young people. It's going to be more difficult for them to go to Europe if they want to.

L: Yeah.

CH: What did your family in Hungary feel, do you know?

L: About Brexit?

CH: Yeah. So are they affected about coming and going to the UK now or?

L: Urm... I'm not sure because my parents couldn't come to Hungary, they weren't very well. To the UK sorry. Urm... and I think they just... I mean there is this notion I think in the continent that they just don't understand why the UK left and it's partly because... yeah it's kind of... also ah... It's huge. I mean Hungary is a country where politics very much influence the media, much more than it should be and it's kind of the notion that it's a strange thing and you know it's very not reasoning. I mean in Hungary it's generally it's quite one sided and it's just treated as some craziness.

LR: But in your case Brexit doesn't really affect your possibility to go backward and forward because you've got that dual citizenship right?

L: I don't have dual citizenship, I'm only Hungarian but I'm a resident yes. So...

CH: Did you have to apply for the settlement scheme thing or?

L: I didn't have to apply now. So I've got a residency in 1996, and I have some restrictions that I can't live more than 3 years out of this country otherwise I would have to re-apply and be perhaps difficult but no I don't have any. I didn't have to apply to settlement scheme.

CH: Ok that's good yeah.

LR: So in a way, the feeling, your mood was not affected by Brexit but it was affected by Covid and the two things are quite separate in your experience?

L: I suppose yeah. Covid only came into my mind as an... when I realised they're making it quite difficult to travel and I think it wasn't just Covid it was Brexit as well. Otherwise no, I just had this... this nagging feeling that... it wasn't really any good choice in the Brexit because there are parts of it that I absolutely appreciate as I said to you about the rules, the EU regulations being lifted from us but I was... I regret the difficulty it causes... the insulation it causes, especially for young people but as I say for academia. I don't know... I just imagine that it's difficult I suppose. I'm not in the academia but I would imagine that collaborations or ??? or dunno I suppose it's not that easy anymore although I'm sure there are ways around it. I feel especially bad for those people who studied with me in Greys and I know that they were from the EU and they went back and now they cannot return to the UK. I didn't foresee that you know. I didn't foresee that was going to happen. I think I might have change my mind about my vote because I don't like being insulated.

LR: Yeah because you came from another country so you probably don't like to be stuck in a place. Yeah I was going to ask you one more thing about it... How did you feel or?

CH: Lucia you have to come closer.

LR: Sorry sorry, can you hear me. How did you feel as a European because at the end of the day you are a European so how did you feel as a European when Brexit came along. I understand you voted for it so, it's very interesting because it's very unusual as well I think.

L: Maybe yeah but in the end fifty one percent voted for it so just depends.

LR: No it's unusual for a European I would say. So did you feel as a European about this sentiment that came out, through the Brexit vote. Did it make you feel something? So in thinking about how British people think about Europeans because we are European so it affects us, it's about us isn't it.

L: Urm... I...

LR: Did it make you feel anything? I'm just asking, just really out of curiosity.

L: Urm... I ... I live here you know for almost thirty years, and most of the time I'm here. When I go back to Hungary I am a visitor. A very comfortable, a very getting back the homely feelings but never the less I am a visitor. I live here and my family grows up here and um... what I said I'm going to have, when I move here, two countries instead of one. It's actually, as it happened... and this might be a lot to do with Hungarian politics as well but I kind of became quite a person who lives here. I'm never going to sound like I was born here and whatever but I used to think maybe twenty years ago when I be really old I go home and I live in Hungary and I don't think that anymore. I'm very happy that I'm not there. Of course I'm happy to go back for a visit but I don't want to live there. I never thought, I never ever thought that will happen to me. I didn't want to live abroad when I was very young when I met my I, you know, I was quite reluctant to eventually take this path and then I could have gotten a citizenship for very little money which is now twenty times more if not thirty times more, little bit am right? Yes so about twenty times more the price is, so I could have very easily gotten citizenship then but I deliberately didn't. I was quite feeling like (gasp) I'm Hungarian and really really I thought I can't change

that and now so many years down the line I feel this is my home. [chuckles] I'm a tourist in Hungary. So my feelings were, when Brexit came along was that good for Britain. I'm afraid that was my feelings. Good for Britain to have their own way, and you know, I would have thought I wouldn't want to weaken the European union too much but I thought one eccentric member can go out and I knew the rest won't. I don't think it will ever fall apart and if it would have been the question of EU is going to fall apart should I be part of it or not. I most definitely would not have voted for Brexit. I don't want the EU to collapse but I felt it strengthened... ach I don't know if it strengthened but I thought that it would take one eccentric and become grander. We're still only fifty miles from EU but I mean influence is going to be here and there are things that are not right with the EU that (scoffs). That you know, I really don't like this bureaucratic grey power on top of a spirited country with their own. As I say, I mean I'm a painter, one of the best qualities of any artist perhaps I would say is that risk taking and non-conformity. I mean I don't impose these qualities on myself I am just what I am. I don't, I really don't like loosing my freedom. I can take a lot of things, I can take hardship, I certainly made lots of mistakes that I have to live with but I... I couldn't take a husband or couldn't take anyone to tell me, who kind of restricts me. That's the one thing I can't stand. I can't stand it.

LR: That comes out really clearly from your drawing. It really feels like you are a bit suffocated by lockdown so it's obvious that you don't like to be restrained and that applies to the European rules as well I suppose.

L: Yeah, I know... I know.

CH: Where do you see your home? Do you see your home in(UK)?

L: Yes, uh-.... yeah. I lived here for... So we moved here in 96' to and we lived here ever since, although in a different house now. It's a beautiful part of Scotland and I was so... I used to, I don't hide that much, it was one of the main things that brought us together when we met is that my husband is a hiker and we used to get lost in the highlands for weeks on end. I'm absolutely in love with Scotland and... Hungary is beautiful, Hungary is absolutely gorgeous and you know Hungarian summer is wonderful and erm... Yeah I do... I mean I do have those memories that come back and there's lots of very good people in Hungary but I spend so much time in here.

CH: What about your children? Do you speak Hungarian to your children when they were younger or anything like that or?

L: Yes so I made sure that the boys, the boys do speak Hungarian. Not my daughter. I tried to speak to them Hungarian here and just teach them that way but they always answer back in English when they were little so what we did eventually that, just before primary school. So the boys they took, they are very close in age, just a year and a bit between them. So when the oldest one should have been in primary one, and the younger was still four, four and a half I spent a school year, a nine month period in Hungary with them. When they went to nursery there and that way they learnt to speak Hungarian because I just couldn't teach them all myself. Not to mention I myself was learning English so it just didn't really work. Yeah they do speak Hungarian, I needed them to speak Hungarian because I was starting to go crazy. I needed someone to speak to in Hungarian so the boys had to learn Hungarian and I have to say they're really embracing it and they're proud of it and yeah, it's good for them. I couldn't do this with my daughter. That time, there's a certain window of time when you can do this, your child cannot be too young and cannot be too old and there's a couple of years, perhaps three years the most when it's the right time but those years coincided with the boys higher years and very important one after the other and what they do and where they go to uni and I felt I had to be here for that. So (...) doesn't speak Hungarian. She thinks she does. She really would like to but she doesn't.

CH: Lili that's really interesting thank you so much. We need to send you an Amazon voucher as well so can you make sure you send us your address?

LR: Please, Anke is one of the team, she helps us with the research, she'll send you an amazon voucher if you send us your address. You'll get it. It's actually a physical one, it's not online so we have to send it to your address.

L: Do let me know when your book is published.

CH: Yeah we're going to do a webinar in May time if you'd like to come.

L: Okay, yes I would yes.

LR: Yes and also we have a blog and in the next email we can send you the blog address and so you can keep an eye on what we're doing and if you want to comment or put something on it I think you will be able to. I mean I'm not the one running the blog because I'm not technically competent about it but Bart our...

L: Yes Bart that's how I knew about the project.

LR: He will let you know if you want to contribute that would be great.

CH: Yeah and other peoples artwork is there as well.

L: Thank you!

LR: I'm in a bit of a rush because I have another appointment soon but thank you so much Lili.

L: My pleasure then, good luck with the project.

CH: Thank you, keep in touch!

LR/KE: Bye.

End of recording

End of Transcript