

VIZUALNI ESEJ

**Spaces Between
(Living) Places**

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TONKA

MALEKOVIĆ

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**Spaces Between
(Living) Places**

VISUAL ESSAY

„Ja sam samo u glavi
odlučila da idem van. Kam'
idem? Egal kam' idem. Idem.
Znači, došlo je vrijeme da
se neka promijeni.” / “I
just decided I would go
in my mind. Where was I
going? Doesn't matter. I'm
going. The time came for
something to change.”



„Sad bude godinu dana kak' sam došla. I više ne bi' to, rekla
sam. I 'ko god da me pita, velim. Ne bi', ne bi'. Ne bi' psihički
više to 'držala. Gle, ja sam malo dijete u Hrvatskoj ostavila.
Mislim, kak' je to... Ja sam mislila, ako mi sad srce ne stane u
tome autobusu da ono... Ako to preživim, reko', onda budem
preživjela sve. To je bilo koma. Koma.” / “Exactly one year
ago. It's almost one year since I arrived. And I wouldn't do it
anymore, I said. Whenever anyone asks, that's what I say. I
wouldn't, I wouldn't. I couldn't do it anymore, mentally. Here's
the thing, I left a small child in Croatia. You have no idea... I
thought to myself, if my heart doesn't stop in this bus... If I can
survive this, then I can survive anything. It was awful. Awful.”



„Ja sam došla s ruksakom. S ruksakom i
unutra mi je bila garderoba za dvadeset
dana.” / “I arrived with a backpack.
With a backpack, and inside was 20 days'
worth of wardrobe.”



„I stresan, i težak, i neizvjesnost. Nova je zemlja, nisam znala jezik, ni muž nije znao jezik. Znači, doslovno smo se našli u jednom trenutku sami, usred ničeg, usred nove zemlje, usred sveg, kao vanzemaljci.”
/ “And stressful, and hard, and the uncertainty. A new country, I didn’t know the language, my husband also didn’t know the language. I mean, all of a sudden we literally found ourselves alone, in the middle of nowhere, in the midst of a new country, at the centre of it all, like aliens.”



„Meni je trebalo puno, ja smatram, da se toga desi da odem, jer uvijek sam smatrala, i ako odem, da ću se vratiti'. Oduvijek mi je bila želja otić' u Njemačku. (...) U biti, ajmo tak' reć', htjela sam uvijek ić' van, al' sam uvijek sanjala da to ipak sve bude u Hrvatskoj, evo tak' ću reć', možda to.”
/ “It took a lot for me leave, I think, because I always thought, even if I leave, I will return. I always wanted to leave for Germany. (...) Actually, let’s put it this way, I always wanted to go abroad, but I also always dreamt that it would all happen in Croatia after all, that’s all I’ll say, maybe it was like that.”



„Najteža je ta odvojenost od djeteta i od žene. I onda kad počnem razmišljati o roditeljima, kako su oni, ne znam, znači, pokušavam iz njihove perspektive sve gledat', živjeli su kako su živjeli, skromno i puno odricanja, i onda na kraju im se djeca onako rasele svuda po svijetu. Oni dođu u te svoje zadnje godine života, i sad šta, gdje je tu onak' neka sreća, gdje je tu zadovoljstvo neko, kad gledaš s njihove strane.”
/ “It is the separation from my child and wife that are the hardest. And then when I start thinking about my parents, how they’re doing, I don’t know, I try to view things from their perspective, their lives were the way they were, they lived modestly and with a lot of self-sacrifice, only to have their children move away all over the world. They get to their last stages of life, and now what, where is some semblance of happiness, some satisfaction, when you view things from their perspective.”



„Glavni i osnovni razlog je da svojim
doma osiguram bolji život. Ništ' drugo.
I da ne oskudijevaju u nekim stvarima
u kojima su do sad oskudijevali. A to su
neke normalne stvari. Od odlaska na
bazen, od odlaska na more, od odlaska...
Od kupovine obleke, obuće. Neke
trivijalne stvari, mislim, kaj je tu opće
pod normalno.” / “The main and basic
reason is to ensure a better life for my
folks back home. Nothing else. So they no
longer have to go without the things they
have had to go without for so long. And
these things are pretty normal. Going to
the swimming pool, going for a vacation,
going... Shopping for clothes, shoes.
They're trivial things, I mean, what is
normal here.”



„Migracije, to je tak' blago. Migracije.
Ovo je egzodus.” / “Migration is too
mild. Migration. It's an exodus.”



„Najbolje bi bilo da ljudi razmišljaju samo
od danas do sutra, znaš, kako da prežive,
kako da se... Mi smo presitna riba, jer
kažem ti, netko igra monopol sa svima
nama.” / “It's best if we live from day to
day, you know, figure out how to survive,
how to... We're small fish, because, I'm
telling you, someone is playing monopoly
with all of us.”



„Velim ti, volim grad, volim državu, ali ne do te mjere da bi mi to bila blokada za dalje. Volim i ovo tu.” / “I’m telling you, I love my city, I love my country, but not to the extent to be held back by it when moving forward. I love my life here as well.”



„Sigurnost koju osjećam tu je iznad svega tog lijepog tamo.” / “The security I feel here trumps all the beautiful things over there.”



„Ja nisam negativan, al’ nisam sad nešto ni pozitivan, samo realan. Al’ znam ja da će bit’ teško, da je bilo teško i da će bit’, mislim, kad sam krenuo, bio sam spreman na to. Al’ opet mi je bolje i to nego ono dole što sam preživljav’o. Dole se nisam imao čemu nadat’, a ovdje imam.” / “I’m not being negative, but I’m not particularly positive either, only realistic. But I know it’s going to be difficult, that it was difficult and that it’s going to be difficult again, I was prepared for it when I left. Then again, better this than what I was going through back home. I had nothing to hope for over there, but I do here.”



„Zašto nisam prije otišla? To je pitanje koje mi je stalno u glavi. Jer da sam otišla prije, vjerojatno bi... Bilo bi mi bolje, mislim, sad mi je super, ali vjerojatno bi' puno više uspjela da sam otišla ranije...” / “Why didn't I leave earlier? I keep wondering about that. Had I left earlier, I probably would have... Well, my goals are always somewhat big, I would have been better off, I mean I'm doing great as is, but I probably would have been way better off had I left earlier.”



„Ja se osjećam tu kao doma. Meni je neobično u Hrvatskoj. Da, kao prvo, dođeš... Recimo, zadnji put kad sam došao, odjednom tvojih deset prijatelja nema. Gdje su? Svi su odselili. Nemam s kim popiti kavu!” / “Here, I feel like home. I feel strange in Croatia. At first, when you go back home... For instance, the last time I went back home for a bit longer, all of a sudden your friends are no longer there. Where are they? Everyone moved away. I don't have anyone to have a coffee with!”



„Bojim se jako, ja se uopće ne usudim razmišljat' o tome. Ja se ne usudim razmišljat' o nagodinu, o 2017. koju ću provesti ovdje, jer ja se još nadam nekom čudu. Znam da je najvjerojatnije da ću ja i nagodinu bit' ovdje, ali ja ne mogu o tome razmišljat' jednostavno, plaši me to, iskreno.” / “I'm very scared, I don't even dare to think about it. I don't dare to think about the next year, about 2017, which I will spend here, because I'm still hoping for a miracle. I know that most probably I will spend next year here, but I just can't think about it, it scares me, to be honest.”



„Samo to zadovoljstvo me promijenilo, na nekako bolju osobu, dosta sam pozitivnija, nema tog nekog negativnog, što sam i rekla, znači odeš dolje, ubije te ta negatva, hoćeš pobjeći nazad. Nema toga.” / “It’s the satisfaction itself that has changed me, into a better person somehow, I’m more positive, there’s not so much negativity, like I was saying before, when you go to visit back home, the negativity kills you, you want to run back here, there’s none of that here.”



„Ja želim da uspijem i da kažem, evo, ja sam sama uspjela. Ja u Hrvatskoj to nisam mogla za svojih 60 godina. Živjela sam po regulama, normalno bez ikakvih kazni, bez ikakvih, ono, bila sam dobra kći, bila sam dobra žena, dobra majka, dobra snaja, dobra u porodici svima redom, ja sam to sve odradila. Ali šta je meni država dala, šta je meni društvo dalo?” / “My goal is to succeed, so I can be able to say, here, I made it on my own. I wasn’t able to do that in Croatia in the 60 years I lived there. I lived by the rules, I was a good daughter, a good wife, a good mother, a good daughter-in-law, I was on good terms with everyone in my family, I did everything I was supposed to. But what did I get in return from my country, my society?”



„Ovdje su ljudi puno mirniji u glavi.“ /
"Here, people have peace of mind."



„Ne mogu da kažem da mi je
Njemačka dom, prihvatila sam je zbog
regula, zbog 'red, rad i disciplina'.
Eto, zbog toga sam je prihvatila, to
mi se strašno sviđa, to je fantastično
nešto rešeno.“ / "I can't say that
Germany is my home, I accepted it
because of its rules, its orderliness,
work and discipline. There, that's
why I accepted it, that's what I like so
much, that works great here."



„Možeš sve okrenut na neku crnu
stranu, a možeš opet okrenut na
nešto... Sve je, naravno, tvoja
perspektiva, kako gledaš. I to je to.“
/ "You can always look at things from
a negative perspective, but you can
also try to view things from... It's all
about perspective. And that's it."



„Općenito, kad pomislim na kuću, meni ne fale tol'ko moji roditelji i... Mislim, to je tol'ko ružno za reć', ali ja mogu bez njih, ali ja ne mogu bez, bez tog osjećaja (...) Imam sobu i onak', ogroman prozor i gleda onako na šumu, nebo, brdo... I valjda to neko moje sanjarenje vječito tamo je ostalo, i kad se vratim, valjda je to ta neka luka gdje mi se, ono, sve... Ne znam, svi snovi gdje nastaju. Evo, to je meni dom.” / “Generally, when I think about home, I don't really miss my parents so much... I mean, that's a horrible thing to say, but I can manage without them, but I can't manage without this feeling... (...) I have my room and, like, a huge window overlooking a forest, the sky, and a hill... I guess, this everlasting daydreaming has stayed there somehow, and when I go back there, I guess it's a kind of harbor for me, where everything... I don't know, where all my dreams are born. So there, that's what home means to me.”



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