

Art in the Time of Covid

May 26, 2020

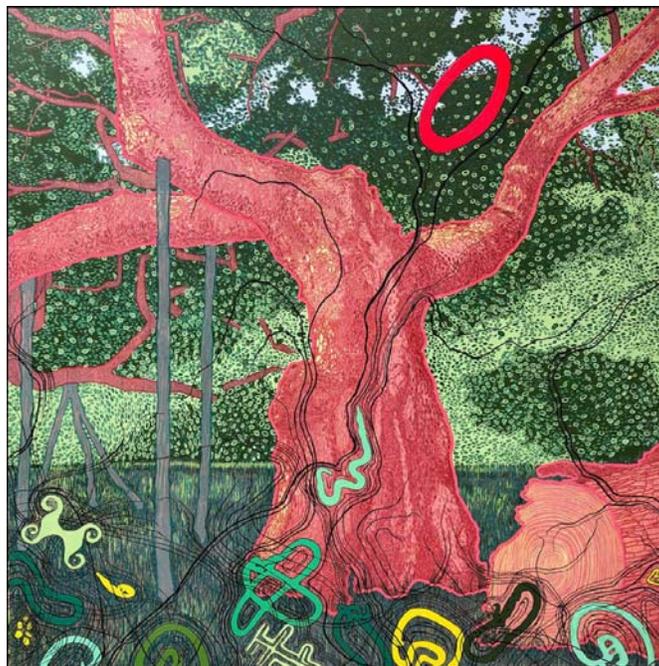
Artists interpret the world, and right now it's a new and unfamiliar world we're living in. We're providing an opportunity for all of us to share our creative work inspired by this experience.

We are sending out periodic emails showcasing the covid-inspired work of Rappahannock artists and others in the community whose creativity has been stirred by these times.

The art takes different forms -- visual, written, video or audio -- but deals in some way with the new patterns of our everyday lives. If you would like to participate in this program or give us feedback, please contact newsletter@raac.org.

Patricia Underwood

"While researching this series the past few years, my thoughts regarding climate change predicted a human culling from tsunamis, earthquakes, fires – due to collective human behavior. I never saw the pandemic coming."



Wailing

*"Her language surrounds as she cries to us "Listen!
This was inspired by a photo of a 900 year old oak I took in Rogalin, Poland for my current series on trees and humans as co-existing species. Trees have been living, sustaining and surviving collectively for thousands of years. They can teach us how, if we stop and listen."*

Sue Gabbay



*THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS
Only ourselves for company;
we meet our friends, shop, play
as virtual beings, no warmth of
flesh between us. We interact
through cold, spiritless devices.
Books and music in our lonely hours
may beguile us, connect us
to the world that was.
Will that world be again,
or will we enter a new age?*

SPRING

*Spring tiptoes in
Amid the clamor of an invading virus
Whose sound and fury
Drowns whispers of the growing iris,
The daisy, the rose,
Which we pray will still inspire us
To poesy.*

STAY AT HOME

*Stay at home. Sequestered.
I can do this. I don't mind.
I am an introvert; easy peasy. Then
why do I dream
of broad fields, open roads,
seascapes? Why am I reading a travel
adventure story? In these quiet hours
my other self, my braver self makes
herself known.*



Janet Brome

"Several years ago I created this hanging abstract sculpture inspired by Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase." When social distancing became a new way of life, I came up with the idea of putting figures inside each cube - each doing their own thing in isolation. The figures are not obvious when you first come upon this sculpture; we are, after all, hidden away in our personal spaces. When you get closer to the piece, you discover the people trapped inside. Shown here is a fellow texting on his cell phone."





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"I could not resist stepping out of my sheltering-at-home to get some photos after the rain shower on April 7. The glorious collection of many greens of the several tree & shrub varieties were amplified by the wetted sprouting leaves and late afternoon sunlight. You can see the green leaves gradually moving up the gradient microclimate of the Blue Ridge mountainsides. This ... in the middle of a pandemic.

I have seen and studied many photographs of the Spanish Flu Pandemic and the many images of Great Depression by the great photographers hired by the Farm Security Administration (FSA). They are monochrome or "black and white." That lack of color conveys the unhappiness and stress of those times. Thus, I never imagined or thought of color being present. Yet here we are a hundred years or so later. Spring has arrived in all its splendor during this stressful time of a pandemic ... in color. That is a paradox that I, as a photographer, find very disorienting."