



Art in the Time of Covid

July 14, 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. **We encourage you to participate by submitting your art and how it's been affected by covid. We also welcome feedback and will pass along your comments to the artists. Contact covidart@raac.org.**

Michael Dennis

"For me design informs a variety of expressions. I spent my career designing printed matter and exhibits, but my love is making books. Since coming to Rappahannock County I have discovered a new medium – gardening! In this time of Covid my perennial garden in Flint Hill has become my cloister. I'm finding that gardening is a very plastic medium – ever-changing. Things mature, plants move around and surprises pop up altering the direction of the design. It is unlike any other medium I have worked with."



"Living in Flint Hill full-time now due to the pandemic I'm working in the garden every day. I even found time this Spring to rebuild the interior of my garden shed, an old 19th-century meat house. I used material left over from the construction of the interiors of my studio and workshop. The result turned out to be not only functional but a pleasure to look at. No sooner had I finished the shed than a little wren moved in and made her nest. I moved my tools out giving the space over to her while she raised her brood. I hope she comes back next year bringing an end to Covid-19 with her."



Allison Hampton



"In summer I spend a lot of time playing my harp on the porch. It has wonderful acoustics for some reason."

"When Maeve Ciuba got a RAAC Mitchell Fund grant to study with me, I hoped we could have porch lessons with distancing. All my other students are online, which works well but sometimes not well enough – they can play for me, I can play for them, but we can't play together. So it's lovely to have these morning sessions in person, even if we're a little far apart!"

Donna La Pre

"Covid hasn't altered my life, or life as an artist much. It has actually been a relief that the world has had to slow down, be more careful and thoughtful and to perhaps examine more deeply or begin to reflect on the unhealthy, destructive, exclusionary, unjust ways much of humanity has been operating from. I see Covid as a symptom of these ills, rather than a cause of breakdown. Covid has been a messenger, a ruthless, disturbing messenger effecting great uncertainty, gesturing to a need for deepest change."



"I can no longer afford, time- or materials-wise, to make my visual textile art. This is not because of Covid, but because of the issues above that caused this pandemic. As my work always has come from my feeling and subtle perceptual life with Nature , mostly through my garden, immersing more deeply in it has been my response. Simply arranging plants to "speak" of the etheric world, of ephemerality and fragile beauty in simple photos is my offering now."



Our mailing address is:

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Questions, thoughts: email covidart@raac.org