

Art in the Time of Covid

August 6, 2020

Artists interpret the world, and right now it's an 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.

Barbara Adolfi

"The Corona virus sheltered us in place and gave me the opportunity to pick up the heavy load of all my mom's old photos in garage storage... a burden that contained the balancing act of what to keep and what to jettison. What I wasn't prepared for was the joy of peering back into the life of my mother, Catherine Ceravolo, from about age 3 or 4 through high school, into marriage with Joe Adolfi, and for the rest of her life as our mother and devoted grandmother.

On Mother's Day, I put some photos of my mom, Catherine Ceravolo Adolfi on Facebook, and the post yielded an unexpected eruption of loving memories and exchanges among my scattered cousins. What caused this outpouring of emotions?

Was it the previously unseen photos of that little girl who tugged at our hearts?

Was it the discovery in exchanges that she had won a national sewing contest to go to school in Rochester, but was not allowed to attend because girls could not leave home until they were married?

Was it memories of her skill in running the family business?

Was it memories of Kate's kitchen table ready to welcome family and friends?



A photo I took in Staletti in 1976 when my grandmother and I visited our family

We've heard a great deal about "Corona" lately, but I want to talk about the word "Corona" in its traditional Italian sense.

"La corona" is Italian for crown. A crown is for a queen. It is a scarf rolled tightly into a crown that was worn both as a buffer and as a support for balancing the heavy loads women carried on their heads.

My Mother's Day tribute would have ended on Facebook until I was inspired to refashion it into a project for Art in the Time of Covid. This is not what I usually do! I was out of my comfort zone, but I wanted to try. I decided to include my granddaughter Sophia in a project about her great grandmother who she knew well. She and her brothers and mother were sheltering with us for weeks this summer.



La Corona

The culmination of our project to honor my mother. Here is the glorious Sophia, with our Corona creation.



Our mailing address is:

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Questions, thoughts: email covidart@raac.org