

Art in the Time of Covid

November 7, 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 describing how it's been affected by Covid. We also welcome feedback and will pass along your comments to the artists. Contact covidart@raac.org.

Cherl Crews



Reality comes creeping

"Much has changed since "Hey-CV-19" took the globe by storm, turning our world upside down and outside in. As individuals and families were thrust into isolation, we slowly became familiar with how the world would continue to exist during a global pandemic in the 21st century, laced with the implications of a currently severe climate change. With no end in sight, and the fear of death lurking around every corner, we were forced to live in our own shadows.

Even now, as we begin to unfold our wings, and embrace a slow and steady entrance back into an increasingly isolated society, we must re-learn how to interact with each other in the confines of our



Dress for dinner

homes, educational institutions, in marketplaces, and even how we connect with nature from a "social" distance.

We initiate new boundaries of respect, and redefine what were once common-place expressions of pace, gesture, ritual and camaraderie, as a Covid existence becomes the new form of norm."



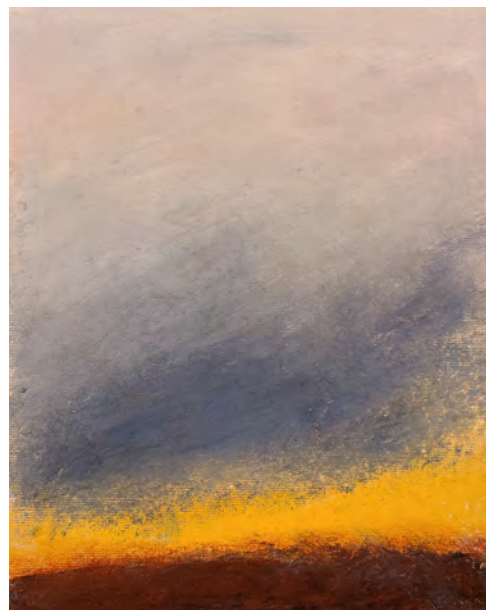
Sunday Funday

Robert Ballard

"These two acrylic paintings on hand-made paper represent two aspects of our current situation for me.



The Distant Storm represents what is going on in the world, and we are happy to live in Rappahannock.



The Stormy Sunset represents the light that shines behind the hard times we are experiencing.

These were painted not thinking about what I have described, but that is how they turned out."

Devin Sherwood

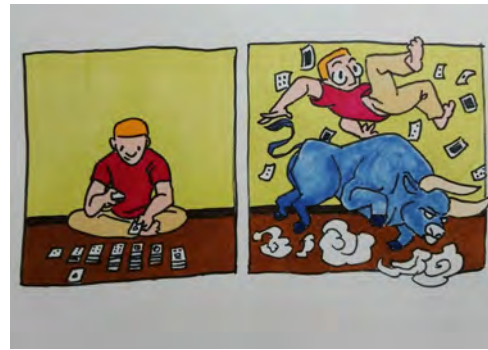


"Generally, I carry a sketchbook that I fill with sketches, notes and ideas. I draw from life, trying to document little adventures, daily activities or a new recipe. It is a constant companion. Whenever I travel, it is the first thing I pack. Waiting at the airport is actually very fun for me because there is no shortage of drawing subjects!"

I have not had a social media platform since Myspace or Instant Messenger but I saw Instagram as a good outlet for my drawings during these days. It has been great to show my sketches and connect with old friends and new ones.



Even when I was selected for jury duty, I brought a sketchbook and good thing too because we all waited for sometime before being called to court. I used to draw the customers when I worked at Central Coffee Roasters. There is probably an 80% chance that if I have been in your company, I have drawn you. I used to be able to share these drawings with folks but due to Covid, letting people flip through my sketchbook is obviously pretty reckless.



I have enjoyed it! I am currently working on a project that was inspired by a "Word Prompt" challenge. The challenge consisted of 31 word prompts, one for each day in the month. Each day, I draw a picture based on the word. With this month coming to a close, I asked my friends for more words! I am so happy to make this connection through my drawings and delighted to be able to share my pictures with everyone! So come and see what is happening @devinsherwooddraws"



Sara Schneidman

"As we all know, 2020 has been a year like no other. It seems as though unseen forces are sounding the alarms: a pandemic, epic storms, droughts, wild fires, locusts, record heat waves. 2020 has revealed fractures and inequities that exist in our society in ways we have never understood before.

George Floyd was murdered on May 25, 2020. On June 4, 2020 the Firnew Farm Artists Circle began meeting outdoors at Montpelier, James Madison's plantation. As a member of the group I have been driving down weekly from Rappahannock watching the seasons unfold and listening to podcasts about systemic racism and what it is to be black.



Arriving at Montpelier I'm always struck by the dissonance of the beauty and history of the place. There seems to be no way to reconcile the two. The fact that enslaved people were treated inhumanely in the same time and place where a new idealistic country was being born, I just cannot understand. It certainly explains some of the fissures we need to address today.

I was to have participated in a show this fall of work inspired by Montpelier. It has been delayed until next spring. What I will contribute remains a mystery to me. Until then I offer you some images of beautiful trees at Montpelier."





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Questions, thoughts: email covidart@raac.org