



Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community

Art in the Time of Covid

March, 2021

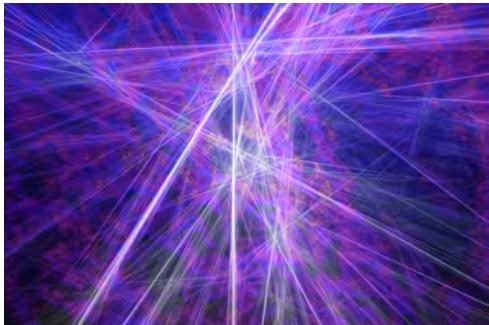
Spring is here, still filled with a complex mix of hope, fear, uncertainty, and joy. Are you stuck? Are you inspired? Are you hopeful? Most of all, what are you working on? If your creative work has been inspired by these times, we hope you'll share with your community.

As you've seen in the course of [this newsletter](#), our sharing takes a variety of forms. 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.

Jim Serbent



"Actress/teacher Stella Adler once said, 'Life beats down and crushes the soul; art reminds you that you have one.' With over 2 1/2 million COVID deaths worldwide, to date, 'down' and 'crushed' are hardly hyperbolic. But hope lies ahead. As recently injected messenger RNA molecules permeate immune cells, teaching them to identify and destroy any possible COVID-19 invaders, my mind's eye visualizes both the micro and macro worlds until the realization -- they are one and the same."



"While viewing these new additions to the ongoing Bardo series, attempt to see them from both perspectives simultaneously."



"Expanding the series during this time of continued isolation has led to deeper levels of artistic experimentation. As mentioned in earlier postings, these meditative works, inspired by ideas rooted in Tibetan Buddhism, are about transcendence. Merging original fractal compositions with digital mixed-media and natural world photography, has opened new doors of perception."

Your reactions may vary from stream-of-consciousness free associations to thought-stopping Zen moments. Let these visual mind excursions allow your consciousness, however briefly, to reach another level."

Darien Reece

"This year of shutting down made me feel like an old engine that coughed, sputtered and stalled - my so-called creative process consisted of more stops than starts.

A month ago, I was invited to participate once again in an exhibition/fundraiser for the nonprofit Joan Hisaoka Gallery in DC. The Hisaoka Gallery is affiliated with Smith Center for Healing and the Arts, an organization I greatly admire for their work supporting adults living with cancer. Alchemical Vessels | Silver Linings was the theme and I was given a 14" diameter wooden bowl to work with.

In making something from nothing, process, for me, is everything. I began with a loose concept (a sailing vessel on its true-north course) and ended with something entirely different (a container for a liminal experience).

Wanting my bowl to appear ancient and primal, I made my own paint using earth-pigmented casein mixed with watered-down clay, keeping my colors to a minimum, the only shiny thing a water gilded clay egg."

Shamanic Journeying and the Great Secret





"Shamanic journeying is the shaman's descent to the Underworld to speak with the ancestors and to enlist the help of animals acting as spirit guides.

Snakes are associated with immortality, rebirth, wisdom, transformation and the feminine. The Egg symbolizes rejuvenation, inspiration and creativity. The Egg is the container for all that is possible.

Acting as witnesses, Man and Bird bless and protect the shaman on her journey. They are the keepers of the great secret: that Death is not the end, that Life holds the gift of forgiveness, illumination, self-healing and magic."



The views and artwork published here do not necessarily reflect the views of RAAC and its Board.

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