

HOLDING THE MOMENT

Artist Narratives

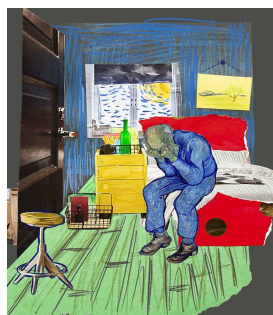
November 1, 2020 - December 5, 2020



Janese Anderson | *Our Lives Matter*: This piece is inspired by what my people have to face every day: the pain and fear of losing loved ones to people sworn to protect us, and the justified anger that follows.



Norman Mark Aragon | *Grandmother Praying*: My grandmother sitting quietly and praying. She lost several siblings during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tatiana Belomytsina | *Eternity in the Room*: The work conveys the atmosphere of a small room, a limited space where the man from Van Gogh's painting sits. The room has modern furnishings and a finished bottle. He cannot put himself and others in danger.



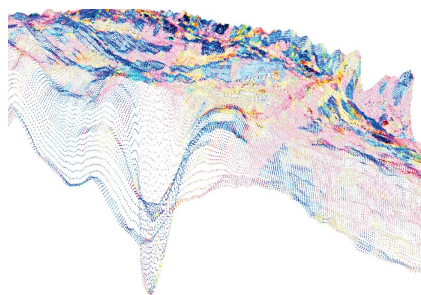
Eric Bui | *AMERICANA*: This piece was inspired by the worldwide protests in 2020 condemning the rampant police brutality that continues to plague the United States. The imagery reflects a nation frustrated with an ongoing pandemic, as well as atrocities committed by those who were sworn to protect the public. Displaying an upside-down U.S. flag is a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property. The US Flag Code allows this use of the flag.



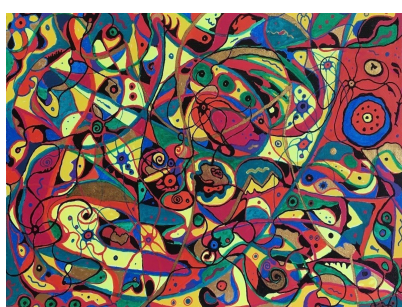
Natalya Burd | *Space Between*: During this challenging time when social encounters with people outside of my family are very limited, I find a great emotional comfort in my solo walks through the local parks. *Space Between* was inspired by wonderful walks during my time at the Djerassi Artist Residency in Woodside, CA. The enormous space of the uncut grass made me think about the aspects of time and space: grass represented an infinite continuum. By using intense color saturation and playing with the reflective quality of colored plexiglass and mirror, I created the feel of infinite space.



Pantea Karimi | *California Healing*: In the style of a mid-century travel poster, this artwork features a medicinal flower, yarrow, that grows in California. The inspiration stems from my ongoing research on medicinal botany and discoveries of plants that have healing properties pertinent to COVID-19 symptoms. *California Healing* communicates a hopeful perspective on life and symbolically posits the path to recovery.



Leily Khatibi | *Surveilled #1*: This artwork's bright and colorful topographical visualizations portray communal similarities of nations that I belong to, regardless of their cultural and political variances. Since it is not always possible for me to fly to Iran, especially during the current pandemic, I can now only visit my homeland through this imagery.



Diann Klink | *Pandemic*: While being solitary is not that difficult for an artist, we are generally emotional creatures and sensitive to suffering in the world. Sometimes we paint what we feel and other times we paint to relieve our feelings. This piece was created to lift my spirits. I used acrylic markers to create a version of a pandemic with multiple viruses spreading their color and infecting cells throughout the painting.



Rayos Magos | *Resistance*: This work embodies the fight for solidarity and resistance against systemic oppression. The closed fist has been a long-time symbol empowerment and resistance in the face of adversity, discrimination, and injustice in the world.



Peter Moen | *We Stand on Each Others Shoulders*: I am horrified by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications. However, I am encouraged by aspects of our struggles that highlight our connections. We rely on each other. Grocery workers, delivery people, hospital workers, and other essential workers are literally risking their lives to provide necessary services. The people in the painting are supported by people, and they in turn support others.



Felicita M. Norris | *Preadolescencia*: Themes of hope despite loss are presented as a young figure who is surrounded by a surreal landscape of balloons and tiles. The piece is meant to be read as a metaphor, with its strangeness evoking emotions particularly applicable today: feeling trapped, exhaustion, inner turmoil, and chaos. It also is contemplative and quiet, lonely and sad: missing loved ones and important (and not so important) events...



Erika Robertson | *The Weight of the Virus*: COVID-19 has put a halt to our way of life. Small businesses are closing. Corporations are thriving. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and are racking up overdue rent. Parents are trying to work at home and care for children being schooled by teachers, who had to reinvent the education system in a heartbeat. The depression and anxiety of holding up a greedy system that is built on consumption is opening our eyes to a harsh reality. Our way of life is broken. Unhealthy. Unsustainable. Greed is a deadly pandemic and the vaccine isn't consumption. Happiness is found in a loving and balanced life.



Judy Rookstool | *Vote*: Voting is a fundamental tenet in the U.S.: however, Constitutionally-guaranteed voting was only for free white males until disenfranchised groups won that right. This ballot box shows wear with long use. It might have served for many elections, but it is now framed by danger. Foreign interference has threatened our election process. With recent postal restrictions and efforts at voter suppression in some states, the universal right to vote is at risk. Every vote is a voice heard.



Sarumathy SS | *Everything I Miss, Thanks to Everything That's Amiss*: While this looks like an individual's perspective, I hope for it to highlight the local places I love that are now affected by the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. I hope it makes the viewer think of the businesses that are struggling, and of those people who we don't meet anymore. When things are normal again, let's shower those places and people with love. Show them they were missed and do what we can to help them stay afloat.



Roan Victor | *In Light*: I'm interested in how quiet and inward reflection, exploration and healing, going back to being essentially human, can affect one's thoughts and understanding in the midst of an environment saturated with media. This work depicts a process of enveloping one's self in a protective covering to find time and space to regenerate, to evolve, to grow, and maybe to change into something not necessarily better nor worse, just different.



Takashi Wickes | *Summer Vacation in Place*: As the whole city became locked down in the first weeks of COVID, we were in a 250 square foot apartment in a music producer's backyard in Encino. The shared backyard became our gym, our second office when Zoom calls overlapped, bird watching central, and on sunny weekend days, our vacation from it all.

Images may be cropped to fit this narrative format.

To view the full image, please visit the exhibition or online: www.sanjoseca.gov/HoldingTheMomentSJ.