

# HOLDING THE MOMENT

## Artist Narratives

December 7, 2020 - January 9, 2021



**Julie Bovee | *Lavender and Coffee*:** Ways to safely interact are our new normal. I've long enjoyed the beauty of the large clumps of lavender growing in my neighbor's front yard. In May, I noticed the transformation of his driveway into an informal coffee shop. A friend arrives with coffee and they set up their safe zone. Neighbors wander by stopping to chat. It's unsettling that it's necessary and yet beautiful to witness. This painting is a tribute to our ability to make the best of our situation, enjoying our wonderful city of San José, the people living here, and our balmy, temperate climate.



**Lacey A. Bryant | *Waiting Room*:** Feeling that time is passing so slowly and you've been waiting for- ever, longer than most, like a fish in a tank. A curiosity waiting to be seen, to be heard, to matter, to live. Globe unexplored. Window brilliant with possibility and the specter of death. Clock ticking ticking ticking.



**Eric Bui | *We Got This*:** This piece was inspired by the collective response of American youth to a divisive government. Across the nation, people of all races and gender came together to protest hateful, racist rhetoric. Unity will be paramount for our progress as a people and as a country.



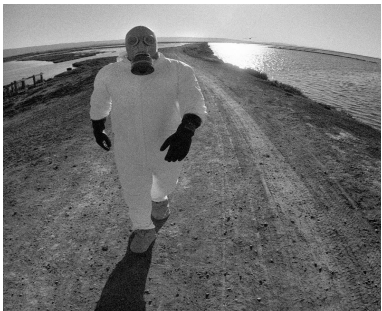
**Jorge Camacho | *Tough Times Tougher People*:** During the shelter-in-place order in March and April 2020 I noticed many more people than usual exercising outside. In response I used vacant storefront windows in Downtown San José as a canvas writing positive messages for the people passing by to see. The project was called "Hello Neighbors" and this window, "Tough Time Tougher People," was the first of many, all created for free (donations were accepted and greatly appreciated).



**Arely Cardenas | *Toxic Sweetness*:** This piece created between April 19 and May 10, 2020 is an expression of my mind and spirit while sheltering-in-place. The bright ocean sunset represents the world I want to escape to, colorful with never-ending waters, limitless. The Mexican Sarape bumblebees represent a community working together to embellish, and fix, the toxicity surrounding us. The decaying skull is our fear of the unknown surrounded with hope represented by the blooming yellow sunflower. My seeing eye in this piece remains centered despite the ever-changing emotions that stream through my conscious and unconscious body.



**Yawen Chien | *The Evening*:** A man sits alone on a couch, gazing in the direction of the empty easel dominating the foreground. There are no windows; the only glimpse of the outside world is in the painting, unseen, behind him. Creativity can be a solitary activity, but it can also be a respite from the loneliness of sheltering-in-place. Solitude can remove the distractions that might keep an artist from creating, but it can also starve an artist of inspiration. The viewer must decide whether the empty easel signifies an artistic achievement successfully completed, or a creative work not yet begun.

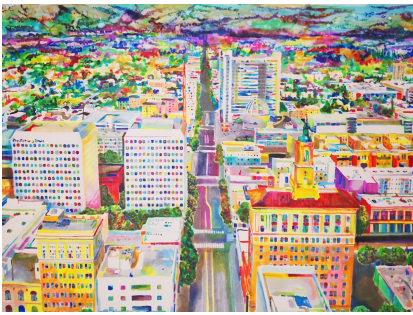

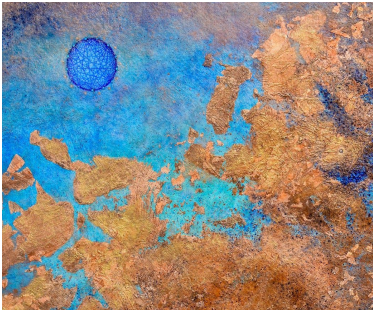

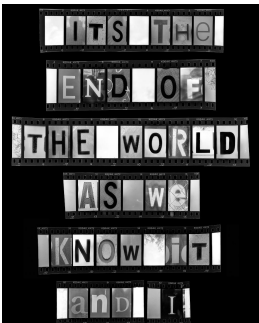


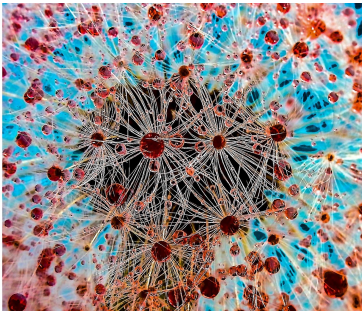


**Joshua Curry | *PPE*:** What it feels like to wear a mask at a nature preserve near my house.



**Joshua Curry | *Mask Collage*:** After watching a man react angrily to being told to wear a mask in a grocery store, I was inspired to make a series of drawings of people with masks: a wide range of attitudes are explored.



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|    | <p><b>Lila Gemellos   <i>Empty Santa Clara Street</i>:</b> An impressionist, colorful perspective of downtown San José, left unusually bare due to COVID's shelter-in-place orders.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Nicholas Jimenez   <i>COVID Grocery Run</i>:</b> A screenshot taken from a short video of a "typical" grocery run.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>Deborah Kennedy   <i>Every Part Wedded to the Whole</i>:</b> This work explores the connections between all life forms and ecosystems. The blue circle floats above in a balance. Below, layers of copper suggest the complexity of a rich organic world. Today, with a pandemic raging across the earth, it is apparent that we live in an increasingly unbalanced and unhealthy world. Dangerous pathogens are emerging at an unnatural rate due to our destructive relationships with nature -- deforestation, animal exploitation, and accelerating global warming. Our personal actions/inactions affect our planet's health, and in turn, our own. Let us transform to support the health of all beings and the biosphere.</p> |
|    | <p><b>Dana Harris Seeger   <i>The Sleep of Reason</i>:</b> Watching a baby sleep, they seem so at peace. They don't realize all the chaos happening around them. At times, governments and society can seem like a sleeping child, at peace in their own complacency, ignorance, and denial. Without opening our eyes, looking at the past and understanding the consequence of actions, our sleep will produce monsters that will grow beyond our control. The baby is hardly discernible. Reason seems to disappear from the world, but hopefully we can rise above and beyond what's in front of our noses and see the bigger panorama, as if surveying the world from the top of the Empire State Building.</p>                        |
|    | <p><b>Jai Tanju   <i>End</i>:</b> Music and art have been an important part of my life. They have been especially important to me during this time. "End" was inspired by a R.E.M. song that I happened to be listening to while riding my bike to the grocery store. It was during the beginning of the pandemic when tensions were high from protests. There was a lot of fear surrounding us for so many reasons. I was feeling scared and uneasy, but the song helped to alter my mood and for three and a half minutes I felt happy and carefree.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>Vicki Thompson   <i>PPE/Front Line Workers</i>:</b> We are in unprecedented times with this pandemic that has altered the fabric of life around the globe. I am compelled to capture its effects on my community. From my pharmacist to my family and friends to strangers, everyone has been impacted. This disease has united and divided so many of us, and its impact will likely change human history.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Diane Villadsen   <i>Old Friends III</i>:</b> Named after the Simon &amp; Garfunkel song, "Old Friends" is a series I've been working on that aims to celebrate companionship in aging, especially in times of loneliness. It has become clear that people over 60 are one of the groups most impacted by the pandemic. I hope this image encourages people to take the virus seriously for the sake of our senior citizens, and that it compels us to reach out to older loved ones to offer companionship, whether it be within a household or from afar.</p>  |
|    | <p><b>Stephanie Vlahov   <i>Beautiful Monster</i>:</b> This image of an innocent dandelion with red drops is eerily similar to its evil doppelganger.</p>  |
| <p>Images may be cropped to fit this narrative format.<br/>To view the full image, please visit the exhibition or online: <a href="http://www.sanjoseca.gov/HoldingTheMomentSJ">www.sanjoseca.gov/HoldingTheMomentSJ</a>.</p> |  |