



Studio away from Studio : Artists in COVID19 Quarantine

Helmut Smits

- Where are you? Do you have Quarantine? Since when?
I'm in Rotterdam, The Netherlands with my wife and two kids. Yes, we are in Quarantine since a few weeks now, but luckily my studio is next to our house and we have a very big garden and the summer has just started so we are a lot outdoors.

- How many times do you leave your house? Are you with family and/or pets?
We have two chickens :) Part from the garden I leave the house to shop for groceries and materials for work.

- How are you feeling?
I'm feeling fine, I don't really worry about the whole situation.

- Are you making work? If so, is there a difference since the quarantine, such as inspiration, motivation, productivity, etc?
Yes I'm still working. Trying to finish some projects that I was already working on before Corona. And trying to start some new ones.

- Are you making something new or working on something you started before the quarantine?

- Are you making any work related to Covid19?
Not really literally, but boredom, homeschooling the kids and being sort of stuck at home does influence the work I guess.

- Has it changed any future art projects you had in mind or planned?
Yes, a lot of planned shows are postponed and practically things have changed also, some shops are closed, it's harder to work with people as some take the rules really strict and don't want to come close to anybody.



- Has it changed any exhibition plans?
- Has the medium changed due to limited resources or due to staying at home instead of studio?
Not really, I was always sort of working with the things around me.
- Is art helping you stay sane?
Always.
- Do you have another job that has been affected?
No.
- Are you reaching out to other artists?
Yes, after this interview I have a Skype call with someone I worked with before. Because we have more time now we are going to make a videoclip for one of my favorite artist of all time, this artist doesn't know it yet :)
- Do you feel the art world has come to a stop?
The whole world has come to a stop.
- If you are staying at home, do you see your home differently?
Not really as I'm here most of the time anyways, as my studio is next to our house.
I found out that being an artist is sort of like being in quarantine all year :)
- What do you miss the most as an artist during this quarantine?
Having coffees and food in the city centre with my family and friends.