



## **Studio away from Studio : Artists in COVID19 Quarantine**

### **Julia Llerena**

- Where are you? Do you have Quarantine? Since when?  
I'm in Vigo, Galicia (Spain), we have been in Quarantine since March 19<sup>th</sup>.
  
- How many times do you leave your house? Are you with family and/or pets?
- I stay at home most of the time, I just go out to go to the supermarket. I'm with family.
  
- How are you feeling?
- At first I felt a lot of frustration and confusion. Little by little I have learned to live in the present and not think so much about the future. I have accepted that my plans for the next few months have changed. Anyway, time passes very quickly and in the end you get used to everything.
  
- Are you making work? If so, is there a difference since the quarantine, such as inspiration, motivation, productivity, etc?
- As far as artistic creation is concerned, I don't feel any different, although my productivity has been lower.  
At first I couldn't concentrate on anything, it was a time of assimilation of the new situation.

# FRESH WINDOW

- Are you making something new or working on something you started before the quarantine?
- I'm working on something new, but my starting point is on artistic works I started before. In general, all my projects are very connected to each other.
- Are you making any work related to Covid19?
- Actually no, maybe in the future this whole issue will be on my conscience and my work could change in that direction. Obviously this problem makes me think about my goals in life and what is really important.
- Has it changed any future art projects you had in mind or planned?
- At the moment we don't know anything yet, although it seems that everything will be delayed.
- Has it changed any exhibition plans?
- Yes, at the moment I have three exhibitions closed, we opened before all this but I don't know when it will be possible to visit them again.

# FRESH WINDOW

- Has the medium changed due to limited resources or due to staying at home instead of studio?
- It has changed everything in many ways. There is a great limitation in terms of materials, I normally work with objects that I get in my daily life, in the city, and right now it is not possible to leave the house. So I've started working on visualizing data I find on the Internet. This data is my new archive and I use it to tell other things and ideas by changing their meanings. At the end of it all, another form of plastic research has opened up.
- Is art helping you stay sane?
- Definitely yes, when I find something in my artistic practice that I think I could be interested in, I experience great satisfaction. It's a way of dreaming and escaping from my place. Art is a very powerful channel of communication, with yourself and with other people.
- Do you have another job that has been affected?
- I don't have any other job.
- Are you reaching out to other artists?
- Yes, we talk a lot about all this and the way we're living it.

# FRESH WINDOW

- Do you feel the art world has come to a stop?
- Artists never stop but the system is going to change for a while. If it is not possible to visit a gallery, a museum or an art fair, the artist has no visibility and no possibility of sales.
- If you are staying at home, do you see your home differently?
- I'm not in my usual place, so I feel pretty strange, to be honest, sometimes I don't really know where I am.
- What do you miss the most as an artist during this quarantine?
- Freedom and physically exploring the outside world with my eyes, beyond the Internet.

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