



Studio away from Studio : Artists in COVID19 Quarantine

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- Where are you? Do you have Quarantine? Since when?

I am in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY. My Quarantine started for me on March 13th, was my last day going to work at Hunter East Harlem Gallery, where I am the gallery manager. Since then I am working remotely.

- How many times do you leave your house? Are you with family and/or pets?

The beginning of the quarantine and most of it, I only went out to walk my dog Gala, to do groceries, and now slowly, since May 1st, I started to go again to my art studio some days.

- How are you feeling?

This has been a roller coaster of feelings and emotions, mostly new ones, because we have never experienced something like this, at this magnitude, so global. I had felt fear of the uncertainty of the outcomes, I felt angry with the management of this country in this crisis, and so much ignorance and lack of respect for human lives, which is something I already have seen and felt because of how the USA have treated PR in a humanitarian crisis. Big feeling of sadness, just to walk with a mask on and having to keep distance from other people, friends, family, strangers... Anxiety just to think of all the struggles people are going through, losing jobs, the health workers, thinking of all the pain they are seeing and all the risks they are taking to save us. Is a lot... At the same time, I have rediscovered what it means to have time to take care of myself and be with my husband together going through this.

- Are you making work? If so, is there a difference since the quarantine, such as inspiration, motivation, productivity, etc?

Making work has saved my soul and my mind. I feel an impulse more than ever to express emotions through my work. But mostly to immerse my mind in it.

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

I started drawing a lot since the quarantine began. May 14th I went to my studio and brought all the drawing materials home since it would be the easiest way to work at my small apartment.

- Are you making any work related to Covid19?

I am not making work related to COVID-19, but I feel that what I am experiencing now is coming through the work.



- Has it changed any future art projects you had in mind or planned?

This has changed some projects, I was invited to be a Visiting artist this summer at Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency and was postponed, hopefully it will happen next year 2021. And at work, an exhibition got canceled and our summer plans have moved to the Fall, hopefully I will be able to open the gallery.

- Has it changed any exhibition plans?

I am included in a group exhibition that is scheduled to open in June 2020, called Entrefomas, curated by Abdiel Segarra at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, but I am not sure if it will be also postpone, the Museum still closed at the moment.

- Has the medium changed due to limited resources or due to staying at home instead of studio?

- Is art helping you stay sane?

- Do you have another job that has been affected?

- Are you reaching out to other artists?

I have reached out to other friend artists, checking on them, they also checked on me, we had Zoom hangouts and we text, it is so important to stay connected, listen to the others and also motivate each other in this uncertainty. Also, at Hunter East Harlem Gallery, we started a program of [Virtual Studio Visits](#), we have invited curators to donate their time to meet artists from the community of Uptown NY, Hunter College MFA students, and social practice artists. That has been so much fun and amazing to meet new artists and engage with the art community.