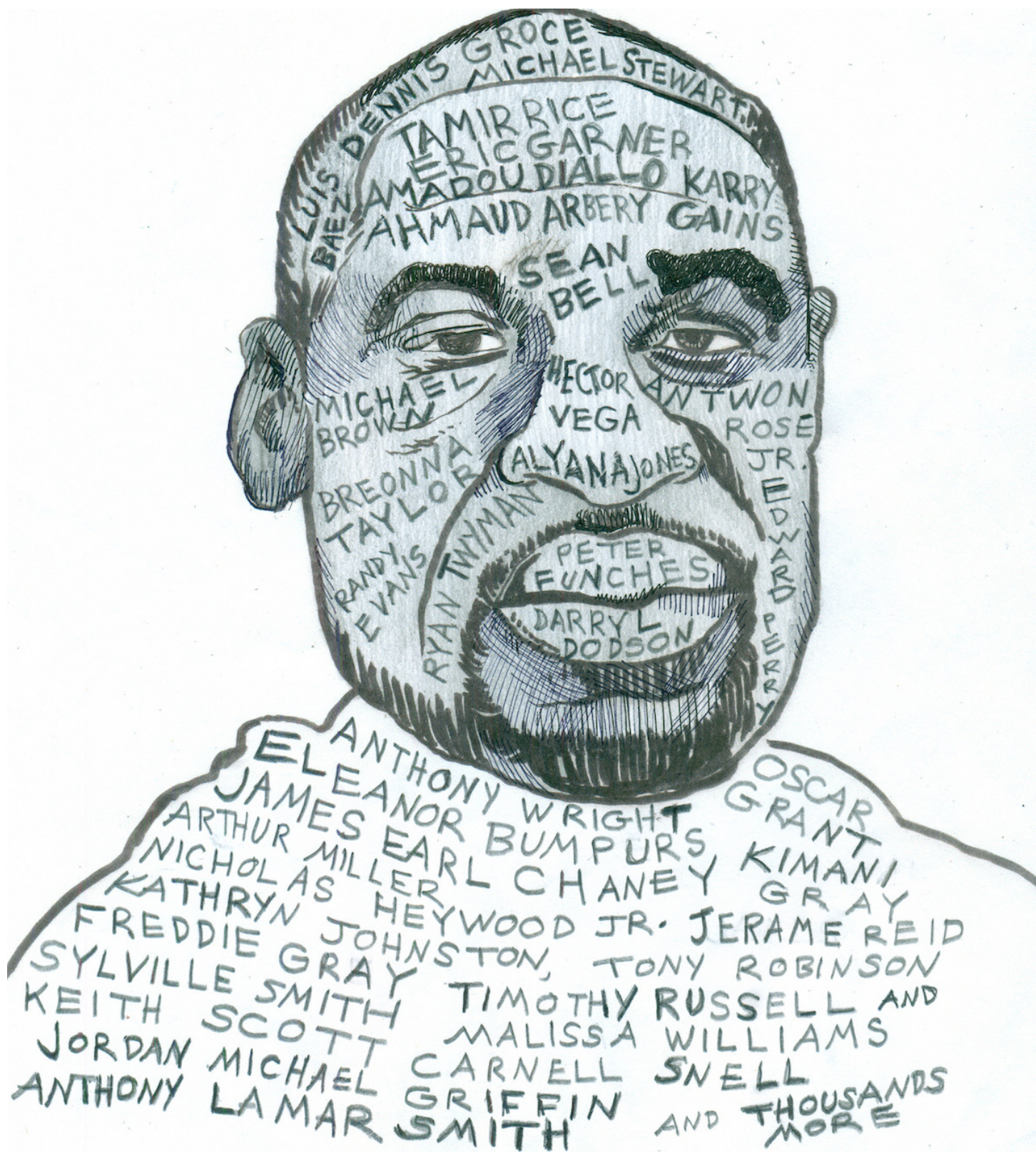




Hindsight: 2020

Artists and Poets respond to the past year





LUIS BAEN
DENNIS GROCE
MICHAEL STEWART
TAMIR RICE
ERIC GARNER
AMADOU DIALLO
KARRY
AHMAUD ARBERRY
GAINS
SEAN BELL
MICHAEL BROWN
BREONNA TAYLOR
RANDY EVANS
RYAN TYMAN
HECTOR VEGA
ANTWON ROSE JR.
EDWARD PERRY
PETER FUNCHES
DARRYL DODSON
ELEANOR WRIGHT
OSCAR GRANT
JAMES EARL BUMPURS
KIMANI GRAY
ARTHUR MILLER
L CHANEY
KATHRYN AS HEYWOOD JR.
JERAME REID
FREDDIE JOHNSTON
TONY ROBINSON
SYLVILLE GRAY
TIMOTHY RUSSELL AND
KEITH SMITH
MALISSA WILLIAMS
JORDAN SCOTT
CARNELL SNELL
ANTHONY MICHAEL
GRIFFIN
LAMAR SMITH
AND THOUSANDS MORE

Introduction

Art serves important functions in society in different ways. During challenging periods of history, art can act as a diversion, or it can serve as an outlet for expressing complex responses to current events. This album was created to allow artists in the Hudson Guild community to share visual and written works which were created in response to the riveting events of the past year. This past fall, we asked for submissions from hundreds of artists who have participated in arts at the Guild. Out of more than 200 submissions, we were able to include 50 of them here.

We've divided the album into four sections: Race, Pandemic, Politics and Personal. The Personal section contains work which is intimate and less of an overt response to the year's events. The three other sections include work which addresses the intense upheavals we have all felt in relation to racial justice, the pandemic, and the emotionally charged election.

The section on Race is placed first in the album intentionally. While the pandemic certainly has been a shocking intrusion on our day to day existence, the racial strife in our country is ultimately an even more important issue. And unfortunately it can't be remedied with the jab of a needle. We can only hope that after all of the protests and dialogue which emerged in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, we may finally be able to adequately rectify the bleak American legacy of irrational prejudice and ugly bigotry.

The numbers underneath the visual artworks in the album refer to the titles and names of the artists which are listed on the inside of the back cover.

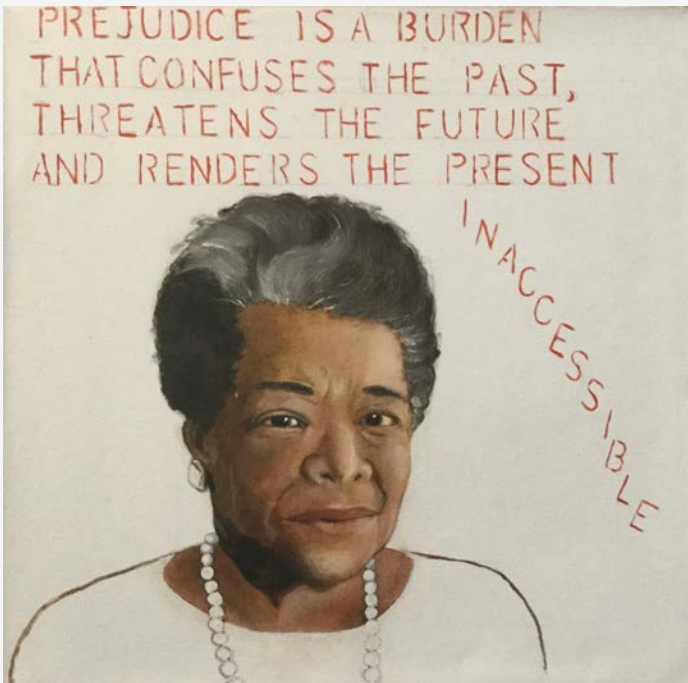
It has been an honor and a pleasure to put this album together. I am struck by the rich variety of responses from the many artists who contributed. I look forward to a day soon when we can be back together to make and share art in person - and feel once again the comforting warmth of human presence. Meanwhile, let's celebrate the artists who contributed their deeply felt creations to this special project. W.H. Auden once said that great poetry is clear thinking about mixed feelings. Many of the artists here are seeing and responding to the world around them with greater clarity than they ever have before.

Jim Furlong
December 2020

RACE



1



2



3

A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM JESSE JACKSON (P.23)

THE CITY SUN

APR. 30 - MAY 6, 1986 **SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER** 50¢
 NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN WEEKLY VOL. 3, NO. 17

BUT IT WAS THE SAME PROBLEM IN
 1987
 1988
 1989
 1990
 1991
 1992
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2019
2020
2021??

WHO'S NEXT?
 See EDITORIAL on Page 27

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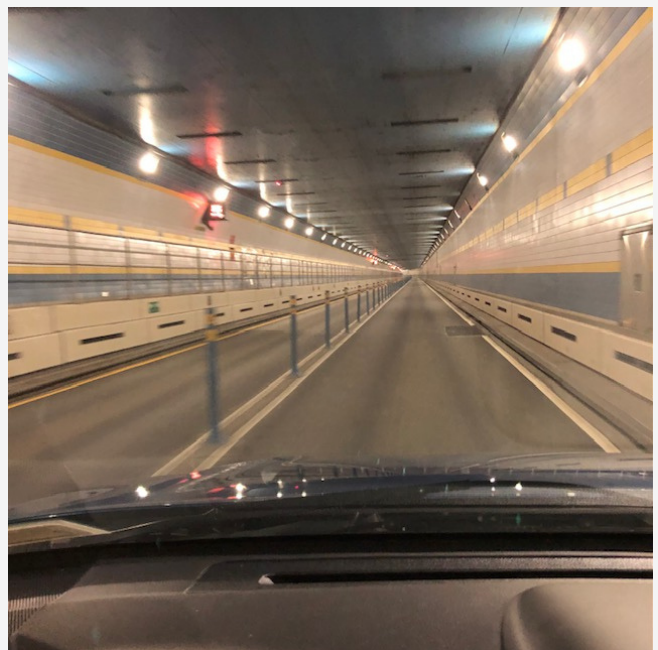
Pandemic



8



9



10



11

COVID WALL
by Helen Peterson

Once we were of one breath
Until the mask came between us.
Covid separates us like a wall.

My eyes fill with tears.
My voice cracks. I can't stand
To see him grow weaker,
And weaker, and weaker.

My body wants to strengthen his,
Limp like a bagpipe without air.
I want to cradle him close
Rock away the pain in his limbs.

Covid separates us like a wall.

Now he sleeps alone in our intimate bed
Next to the air conditioner cooling his fever.
I sleep on the couch.
Ouch!
I miss cuddling with him.

Covid separates us like a wall.

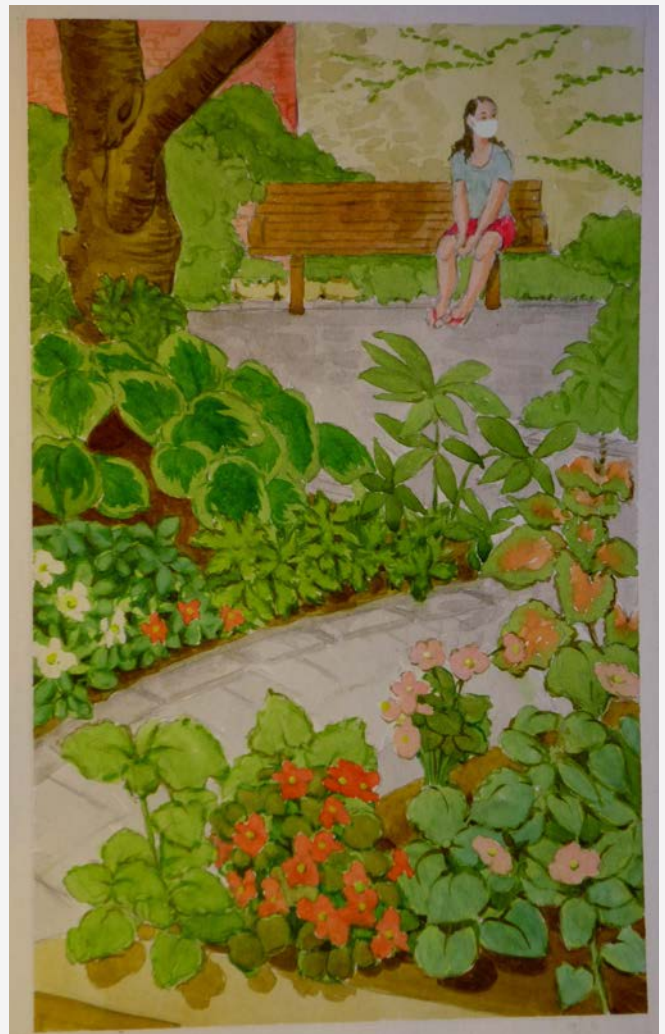
I miss his smile savoring sweets,
But his tongue tastes nothing.
His tummy turns inside out.
He runs and rips off his mask.

Covid separates us like a wall.

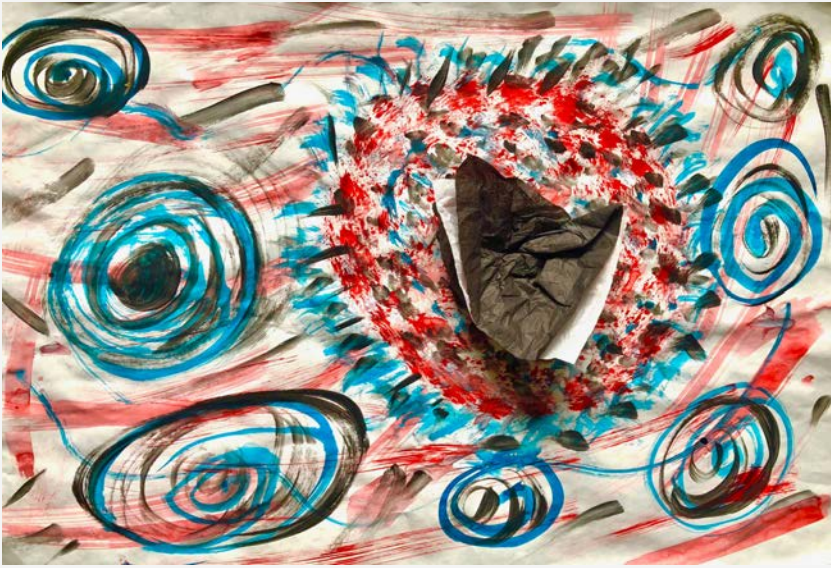
Oh, I want a wrecking ball
To demolish the Covid wall.



12



13



14

THAT WAS THE WINTER

by Paula Praeger

That was the winter the pandemic hit
like a bat slamming humanity.

Proximity to people,
ill advised,
don't touch me,
and I won't touch you.
My worlds closed,

volunteering
at MoMA,
screenprinting,
taking tai chi.

Communicate
by telephone
or electronic device,
strange how
we are barred
from a shared space.

The walls of my apartment move in on me,
threaten to squeeze me
until I am flattened.
How will I inflate?
Am I like
a broken balloon?

Yet I can live
with solitude,
be productive,
write poems and
make collages
that please me.
I find joy,

but also anxiety
for no reason
I can figure,
That's okay.
I don't let it stop me.
I am a trooper.



15



16



17



18



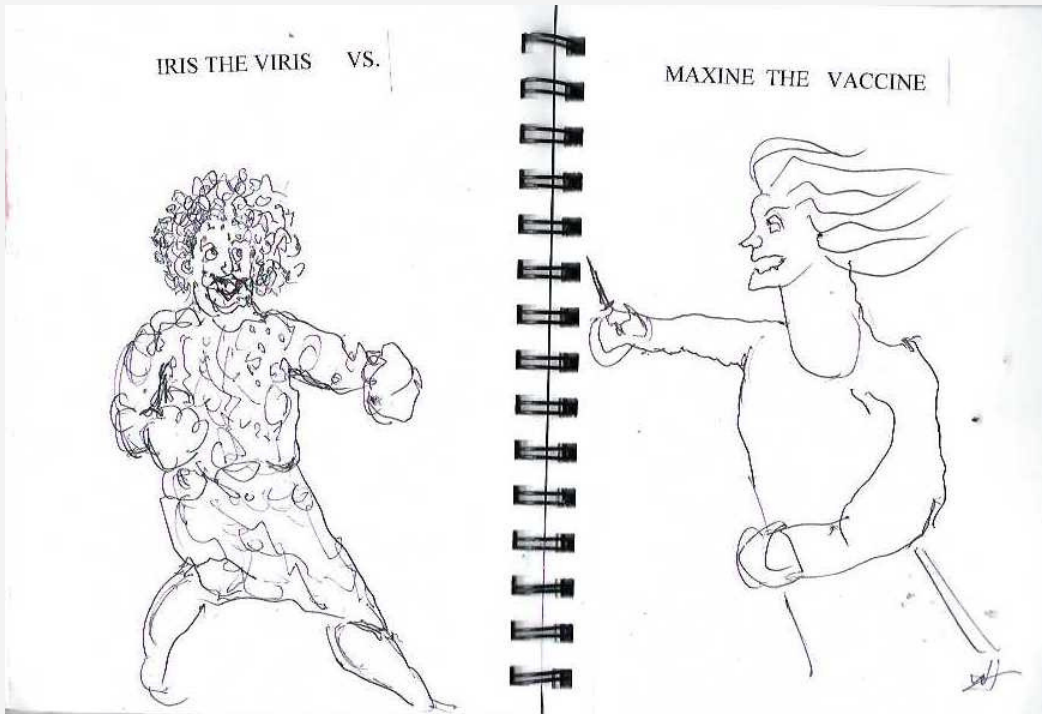
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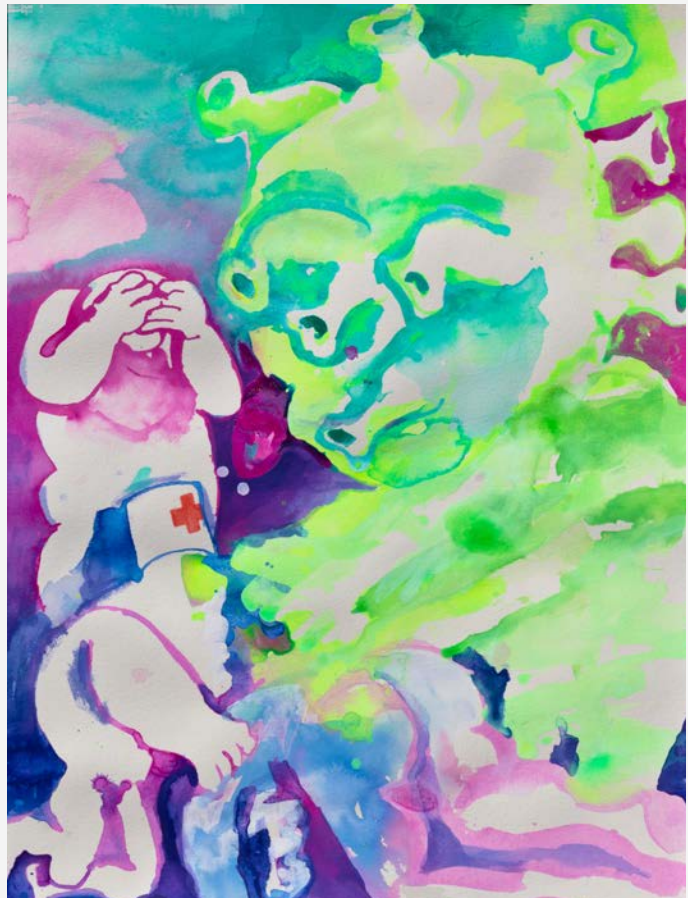
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IN HUDSON RIVER PARK ON A
SUNNY TUESDAY MORNING
by Michele Herman

A jogger jogs by
without a mask.
A woman
on a bench
hollers at him.
The jogger
hollers back.
Suck my dick,
each tells
the other,
I forget
in which order.
I have immunity
asshole, he yells,
but she doesn't
hear, or maybe
care. A few more
assholes fill
the air, a mother
fucker or two.
I can afford
health care,
he yells before
he shrinks
to a dot and
disappears.



Politics

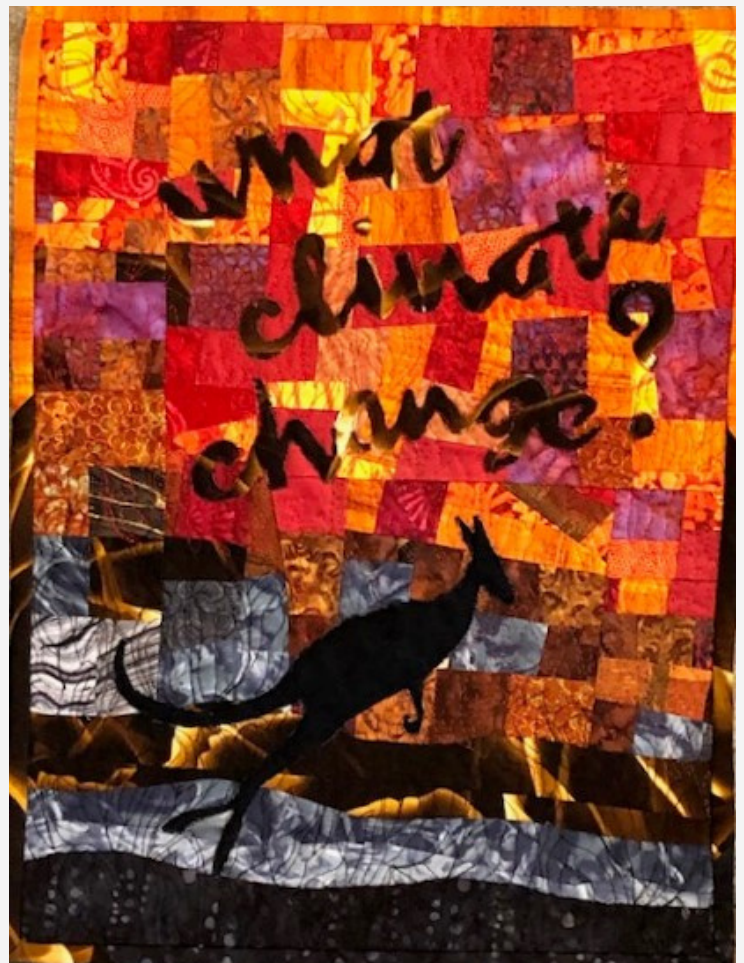


25

This work is part of a series about Human Ignorance that I am working on in a class at The Brooklyn Latin School. In the summer of 2020, I read "A Field Guide to Lies: Critical Thinking in the Information Age" that discusses lies and how people manipulate information to make it seem like the truth. This immediately made me think of a wolf in sheep's clothing, pretending to be something it is not. Just like nowadays information is not always what it seems to be.



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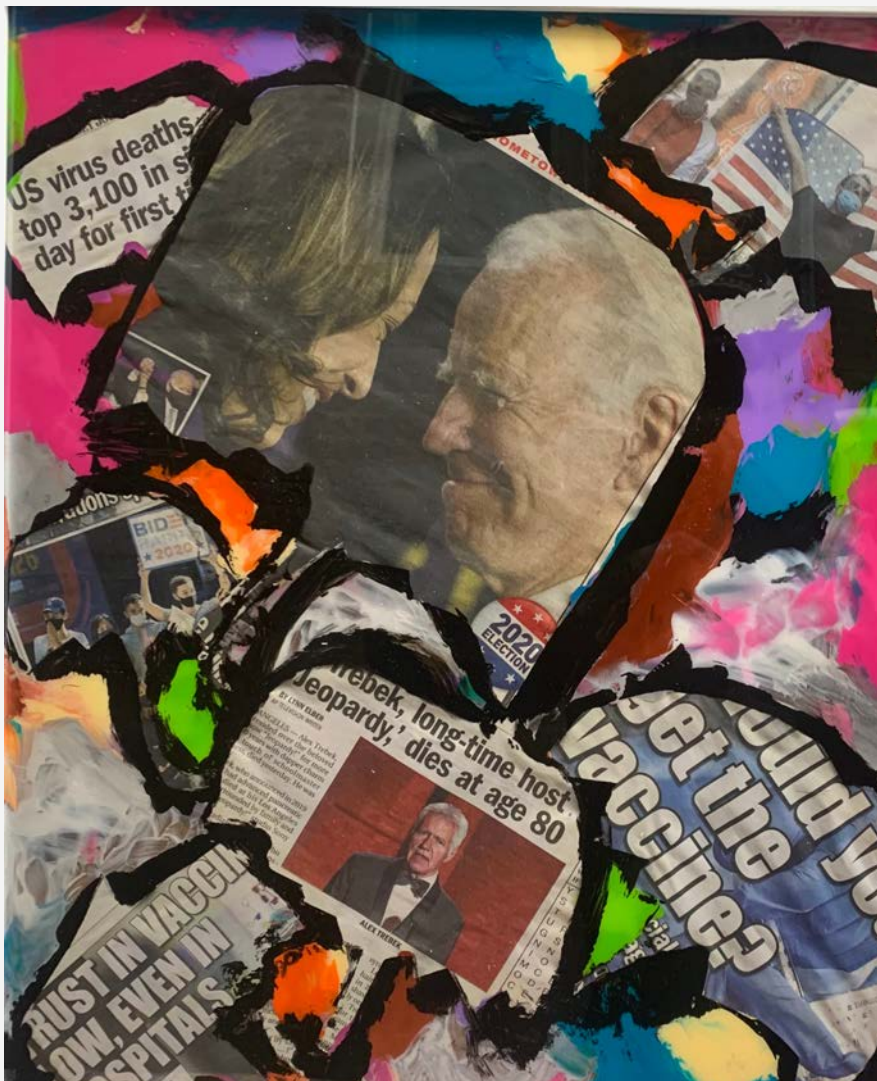
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30



THE DON IS GONE
by Lorraine Congiusta

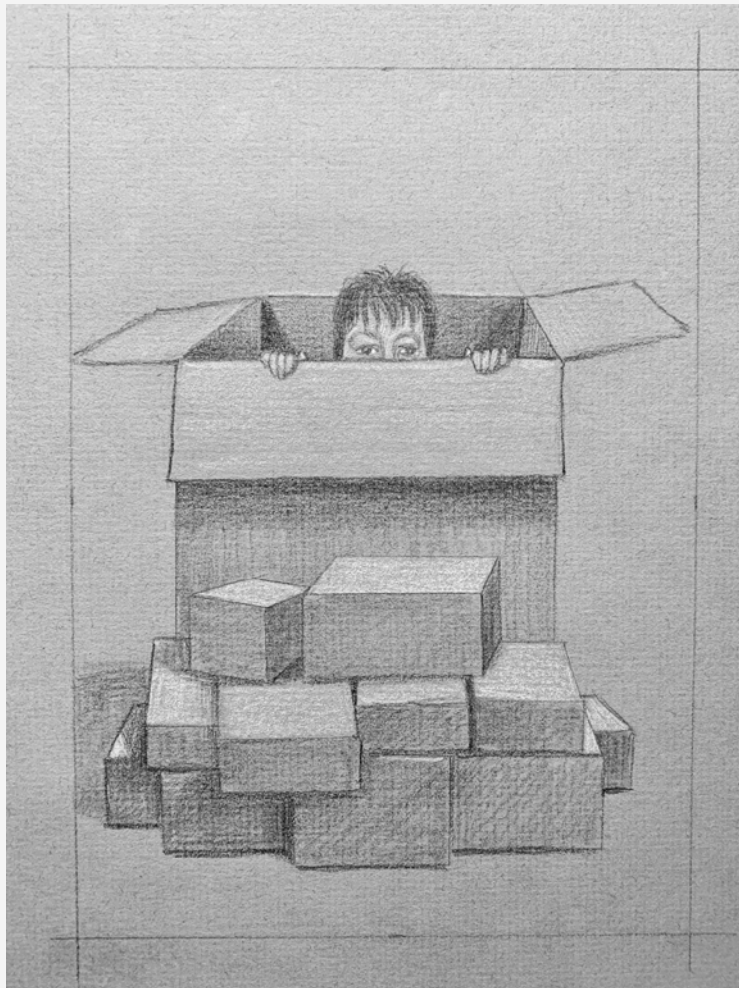
Heartless Tyrant - Spawn of Satan.
The Other Virus!
Corroder of Life and Country.
Recoil back into your Fiery Lair.
Let us be Free again.
May God bless our precious Democracy!

Personal





33



34



35



36



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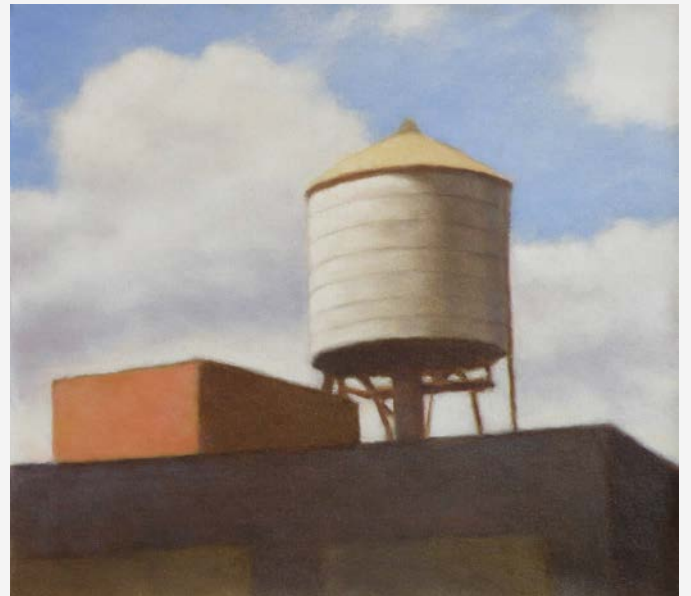
I am adding a lot more color to keep me from going insane. Usually my work has one or more hues of color in one family. Now it is everything..... all together. Very bright.



38



39



40

With the city quiet and still during the first early months of the pandemic, I was drawn to the stolid water towers as a subject. They seemed to be sentinels watching over the unfolding drama below.

AT THE WATER

by Michelle Tokarczyk

Walking the edge of the Hudson River
that seven years ago swelled
on to the shore, flooding living rooms,
subway tunnels, pooling
on the concrete, reflecting a city
watching, hunkering down.

My sister watched a roof-size tree
careen toward her house, barely miss.
My husband six safe flights up,
no power, no batteries, six long flights.
All of us mourning people drowned
at home or in torrential streets.

New York City now swept
in a pandemic wave.
Hospitals swelling beyond capacity.
Not enough ventilators. Not enough masks.
Nerves stretched to the limits of elasticity.

*Visit the sick. We cannot.
Bury the dead. We will try.*

As I watch the ducks bob with the waves
my mind pulls my loved ones close.
I want to hold them here in a place
where they can watch the waves
where they can feel the sun's rays
where they may tremble but

where danger never reaches them.
Where nothing troubles the water,
and the water recedes.



41



42



I have begun to call this year *2020 Division*. Covid-19; racial inequality; some people protesting that they are losing their privilege; poor leadership -- all have been enough to put the whole country on benzos.

However, that is the adult perspective. When I spend time with my grandchildren at my son's house in rural upstate New York, all I see is them enjoying life! What a beautiful gift to be an innocent child in the midst of this unprecedented time. The children have a sense of the events which are occurring, but they expect the big people to clean up this mess.

Visual Art Work

- Frontpiece: *Mr. George Floyd*, Tom Keough
- 1 - *Untitled*, Jane Bolster
 - 2 - *Maya Angelou*, Vija Doks
 - 3 - *American Dreams and Nightmares*, Denise Adler
 - 4 - *Who's Next?*, Tom Keough
 - 5 - *Still from Not the NY I Know*, Sophia Gutchinov
 - 6 - *Untitled*, Greg Mills
 - 7 - *Untitled*, Marion Pierce
 - 8 - *Red Cross, 1918*, Miles Ladin
 - 9 - *Elegy*, Miles Ladin
 - 10 - *Midtown Tunnel, April 14, 1:07 PM*, Maureen Gibbons
 - 11 - *Dark Passage*, Robert Lobe
 - 12 - *Close to Home*, Theresa DeSalvio
 - 13 - *Young Woman Alone*, Sandra Shepps
 - 14 - *Pathogen Tears*, Donna Faiella
 - 15 - *Valley Stream State Park, May 3*, Maureen Gibbons
 - 16 - *Untitled: from #GreetingsFromTheGhostTown series*, Liz Amadio
 - 17 - *The Great Mask Show*, Galina Lampert
 - 18 - *Al Fresco*, Richard Levine
 - 19 - *Homeless in LIC*, Adele Shtern
 - 20 - *Lockdown Mannequins* - Ginger Ray
 - 21 - *Untitled*, Tony Setteducate
 - 22 - *Iris the Viris vs. Maxine the Vaccine*, Ed Herman
 - 23 - *Sirens*, Sarah Szabo
 - 24 - *Covid 3*, Brooke McGowen
 - 25 - *The Big Bad Sheep*, Ky-mani Piqué
 - 26 - *Taking a knee!*, Rick Krieger
 - 27 - *Climate Quilt*, Judith Schaffner
 - 28 - *Journal Page, August 12*, Marilyn Stewart Herbst
 - 29 - *Vote*, Helen Iryani
 - 30 - *The Healing*, Joe Gilmore
 - 31 - *Times Square Victory, November 7*, Charles Marinaro
 - 32 - *The Beast Battles the People: from Apocalypse series*, Peter Harvey
 - 33 - *Isolation*, Scott Jefferson
 - 34 - *Boxed In: from A Self Portrait a Day series*, Fran Beallor
 - 35 - *Untitled*, Martha Chavez
 - 36 - *Untitled: from Memory's Daughter series*, Elizabeth Koszarski-Skrabonja
 - 37 - *Untitled*, Andrea Shapiro
 - 38 - *Duality*, Bonnie Rosenstock
 - 39 - *Hope among the Tumult*, Denise Corley
 - 40 - *Water Tower 7*, John Folchi
 - 41 - *Fear*, Amy Scarola
 - 42 - *Pause*, Jeffrey VanDyke
 - 43 - *Jo-Jo and Ella*, Joe Gilmore
- Back Cover - *The Breath of Life*, Tami Uyama



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