



Studio away from Studio : Artists in COVID19 Quarantine

Alexa Hoyer

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

I am in Brooklyn, NY and have been quarantined since early March.

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

I only leave to go to the grocery store as well as occasional walks, sometimes once a day, other times not at all. I live with my boyfriend.

- How are you feeling?

It depends on the day. It's frustrating to helplessly witness the handling of the crisis in this country and then of course the constant threat to the immigration system by the current administration. I try to keep busy and try to limit reading the news in order to manage the anxiety about the uncertainty of the future.

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

Yes I am making work and am taking online classes, such as polishing up my scanning and retouching techniques. Also, I am continuing my Spanish lessons and am reading Danish Fairy Tales.

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

I have been using the time to work through several existing projects. For example, I have a vast archive of negatives of an ongoing project I started in 2014 in Las Vegas documenting homemade gun targets. Only a few select images have been scanned and exhibited. But I would like to work on a book publication in the future and am choosing many more images now, which I then scan and retouch. In late February, I also went to Mexico to work on 'Patatas de Gallo' for which I take portraits of the legs and appendages of fighting roosters. So far, I've had plenty of post processing work to keep me busy here in the studio. My goal is to continue using this time in the most productive way possible.

- Are you making any work related to Covid19?

Not so far. But I have been writing down ideas. These are quite overwhelming and unprecedented times and I still have a hard time wrapping my head around it.

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

Yes and no.

- Has it changed any exhibition plans?

Yes but I am hopeful that this is just a temporary pause, with opportunities arising in the aftermath.

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

No, my studio is inside my apartment.

- Is art helping you stay sane?

Absolutely. I feel grateful to have all of my projects and to feel a sense of accomplishment during these bizarre times.

- Do you have another job that has been affected?

Yes.

- Are you reaching out to other artists?

Yes, I have been in touch with other artist friends and colleagues around the world via Skype or Zoom.

- Do you feel the art world has come to a stop?

Somewhat yes, but I see a lot of online activity and who knows – maybe there will be some changes for the better. And I feel that particularly in New York, it could be an exciting time coming up.

- If you are staying at home, do you see your home differently?

No, as my current studio is inside my apartment and I usually spend quite a lot of time here anyways.

- What do you miss the most as an artist during this quarantine?

I miss visiting galleries and museums and just being part of a physical community.