



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

### **Maria Jose Garcia**

- Where are you? Do you have Quarantine? Since when?  
I am in my Brooklyn apartment, since March 13
- How many times do you leave your house?  
I go on daily short walks with my partner, and once a week we go to the grocery store
- Are you with family and/or pets?  
My partner and our two pets; I have a dog (Diego) and our cat (iLA)
- How are you feeling?  
I am okay
- Are you making work? If so, is there a difference since the quarantine, such as inspiration, motivation, productivity, etc?  
Yes, I started making work a couple of weeks ago, and I had to adapt, so I started making works on paper with supplies I had in my apartment – I am also attending zoom classes, I am an MFA candidate at Hunter College, so that has helped at being able to slowly ease back into making--- and on whatever form the work may take.
- Are you making something new or working on something you started before the quarantine?
- All new! I have many pieces “on hold” in my studio.... so for now everything is new.
- Are you making any work related to Covid19?  
Subconsciously...
- Has it changed any future art projects you had in mind or planned?  
I was working on the idea of loss, home, fragility and death----based on our current collective experience to the times... these themes, seemed ever more pressing.
- Has it changed any exhibition plans?



Not with my work personally, however I was curating a show at Hunter, for Latinx students attending, Hunter MFA and I was extremely excited for its potential, I don't see it being manifested until next year and with that...who knows?!

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

Yes absolutely- specially

- Is art helping you stay sane?

YES

- Do you have another job that has been affected?

Yes, I don't have a job anymore

- Are you reaching out to other artists?

I have conversations with my friends who are artist, however most of the people in my circle, are people who are still in school---so..... that dynamic is different from actual --working artists—

I feel when you are in grad school, there is a pause to the experience of the working artist- more than a pause I would say, a protection... incubation-

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

Art world (as in the Art Market) my answer would be a soft yes;

In regard to The World of making art, absolutely no. never

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

I love my home and I have always been a home body-

I was able to carve a little space to make work- so that has been beneficial to my mental health and my art making.

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

I think I miss the same things we all miss (spending time with friends and family, eating out, bars, parks, the beach....)

Being able to go to museums, galleries and my studio.