

Distance makes the art go ponder

Portrait of Charlotte Duchesne
Philippe de Champaigne [from met museum]



Tommaso di Folco Portinari & Maria Portinari, by Hans Memling

Renaissance portraits were like commissioned Instagram filters- often a proclamation of the grandeur of the sitter's wealth, the luxury of their life, often a bold statement about the self, and whom they would like to be seen as; portraiture is, after all, rooted in the complexity of the human psyche. Drawn painstakingly through numerous studies and round trips in a world where fostering connection wasn't as easy as clicking on call, or sending a snap- they're portals to a pre- 21st-century pandemic melancholy of being.

Distance then was impassable; distance now is enforced.

The canvas, the mural, the panel- and now, a 2-inch square on a 10-inch glass screen is what we've evolved to. Our only proxy with most of the outer world is via conversations that begin with *Can you hear me? Am I audible?* and frequently end abruptly at a feedback pop-up.

The Facetime Series by Tara Anand



Quote & image from CaravanIndie

Tara says about her Facetime series, "*This is an attempt to record what will be my only point of contact with people outside of my house for a while, and to see how our interactions evolve and adapt to the situation.*" In Anand's work, even externally there's exhaustion- a loss of the 'filter' to some degree, seen in double chins, messy hair and uncensored faces. It is enhanced by hatching- a juxtaposition of static, pixelated noise with the joy of chatter.

But can we capture the anxiety and suffering of current times in neatly separated video call thumbnails?



The Facetime Series by Tarek Attia

Condo's series, "Drawings for Distanced Figures", focuses on the psychological states of being- even describing the figures as "distanced from themselves". A mix of multiple media- the paintings combine perspectives to describe the flurry of emotions we're all experiencing- fear, paranoia, claustrophobia, panic, distress. He is also careful in dissociating the emotions from one another- giving them personas that look away from each other, or bodies that are disconnected with confrontational stares.

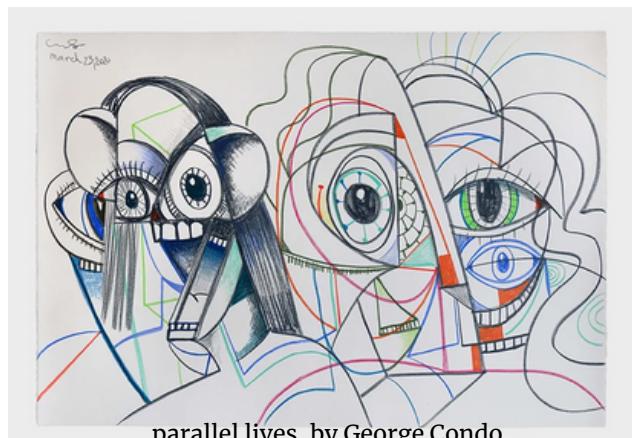


Quote & image from CaravanIndie

linear contact, by George Condo

He says, "*There are figures who are invented to resemble those who I wish I could see, and they somehow or another reflect my inner feelings about the way it is to be left alone out here in the wilderness*". Perhaps, these are also a testament to the merging of the 'parallel lives' we once had, the reverse-trolley problem we've all brought home. Perhaps, reassurance is the antidote for a shared loneliness.

Watch him speak about the series [here](#).



parallel lives, by George Condo



Solar Power

Song of the fortnight

The beach, the air, and the sun. The three basic elements for a perfect summer, all gifts from our Lorde and savior- this track is an enticing "come one, come all" invitation for a new beginning, a new dawn. At the end, when Lorde tells you to throw your phone in the ocean and join a happy-go-lucky sun-loving cult, you dare not resist.



The Festival of Almost Getting There

Renée Ashley

At the festival of almost getting there
Zeno pokes his head out halfway, asks
directions, half-heartedly, to the train,
admits he's been riding on the tortoise,
been running after arrows to watch them
stand still. He understands course, path,
way, even relative position (dichotomize,
divide) but motion's still a figment:
distance halved and halved (split infinity,
twin trajectory) the long, long way, and all
that longing (two-fold, doubled) (moments,
instants, continuous or discrete) for some
unfamiliar end—such unforgiving progress,
portioned, yes, bisected. A half-assed effort?
No, he's as good as got it. So much struggle
and amends. Sure, we're goddamned tired of
this much waiting, but look! He's halfway there.



Monk by the Sea, by Caspar David Friedrich

Inside



In the words of Rachel Syme for The New Yorker, "Inside is a virtuosic one-man musical extravaganza, and also an experimental film about cracking up via Wi-Fi connection while trying to make said one-man musical extravaganza—although, in the mediated age, when genres are twisted and mashed together, characterizing it feels almost beyond the point."

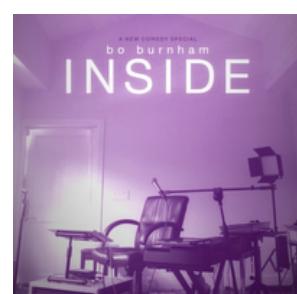


image source

Some famous artworks re-imagined to beat the quarantine blues! The challenge? Make it at home with only 3 household items!

Quarantine and the Art of Being Alone: Artists and Isolation, by Neesha Kanaga

Join the Social Distancing Festival- an online artist's community for those affected by the pandemic.

Check out Window-Swap to crack some new windows across the world! (shoutout to Deepshikha - we discovered this on your insta stories!)

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