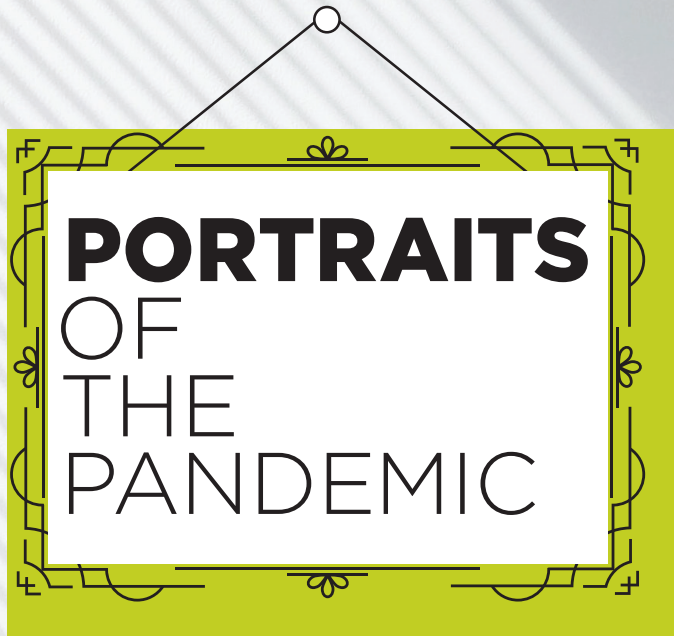


ARTISTS' STATEMENTS



An Exhibition of Self-Portraits by Local Artists

OCTOBER 24, 2020 - FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Megan Andress, age 16

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Wholesome Loneliness

digital drawing

Drawing myself has never been something that I've personally resonated with, so for my self-portrait I decided to focus on the things that represent a large part of myself and have been keeping me happy through quarantine, from popular media to music and baking. I titled it *Wholesome Loneliness* because I think there's something very precious about having time to yourself to do whatever you want, but with quarantine it feels very alone, which is why I portrayed the character as being secluded in the center.

Maureen Bardusk

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Some Things You Learn, Hard Thing, Never a Night, and After the Rain

paper painted and stitched

2020 is an ongoing series of 6"x6" interior portraits which capture snippets of what I've been thinking about, listening to, and reading these past months.

Maureen Bardusk

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Unmasked

stitched fabric

Unmasked is a singular piece composed of leftover bits from the many masks I've stitched for family and friends, each sliver of fabric a registration of intent.

Peggy Jo Brekke

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait

watercolor on paper

I left myself faceless as I have had so many emotions and feelings during this time, I am left feeling blank many of the days!

Paul Chase

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Words of a Portrait

mixed media on canvas

This project was planned before the "social isolation" season occurred. There was much tedious preparation I was avoiding. (64 quotes by artists, 64 small canvas paintings) Being in the studio with ample time gave me the "push" I needed to begin... and complete. The portrait shows a determined look!

Gail Chavenelle

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Masked Metal

steel

As a metal sculptor my pendency portrait has to be a masked metal-cut to remind us all of safe practices.

Barbara L. Collins

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Knitting - Past, Present, Future?

collage

I've been knitting shawls and lap robes for nursing home residents. As I knit or draw, I reminisce and think of my life (I'm 85) and what's possibly ahead.

Judith Crandall

MONONA, IOWA

The Red Dress

pastel on black paper

My granddaughter was disappointed when her senior prom was cancelled, so I drew a portrait of her in last year's red prom dress. Isolation is hard as there is little close contact with family and friends. One has time to look back at better times and their own youth.

RoseAnn Derks

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Rosie the Riveter

watercolor on paper

Thanks for this opportunity!! It has allowed me a wonderful outlet during COVID!!! Art – the universal healer!!!

Sammi Digman

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Wraith

photograph

This photo represents the way of life we were all so familiar with is now gone and our future is unknown.

Mike Doland

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait #1

acrylic on canvas

Painting is my outlet for the months of isolation. I paint seven days a week and the Gemstone series I'm doing is inspired by my 35 years as a Jeweler.

Dave Eischeid

BELLEVUE, IOWA

Blamelessness

acrylic polymer on canvas

Social isolation feels like entangled roots, draining my energy, preventing many social and artistic events.

Britni Farber

DUBUQUE, IOWA

It Makes Me Cry

acrylic on canvas

It Makes Me Cry is first in a working series of artwork that bears witness to the silent disconnect felt between expressing or the inability to express one's internal emotions to fluid external thoughts. The context of Farber's original artwork begins with the yearning to suppress somatic symptoms of emotional distress and her desire to communicate her feelings in a way that she could not convey other than saying, "it makes me cry."

While creating this piece, Farber found her hands to be a powerful working tool, giving a voice to her unspoken visceral feelings. By using her hands, Britni was able to find a sensory release which then translated into the grit of her painting and the display of her core emotions during a time when verbal expression felt lost.

Robert Felderman

DUBUQUE, IOWA

COVID-19 Self-Portrait "General Bob"

video

Robert Felderman

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait

photograph

General Bob is a storyteller who travels America and the world confronting challenges in the global art community through images. While the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down that travel, he spends more hours on education and sleeping than usual. This view is contrived of what he thinks someone should look like during a pandemic.

Delores Fortuna

GALENA, ILLINOIS

We're All In This Together - 4 part series

porcelain and celadon glaze, terra cotta, stonefired ceramic, and copper mesh

The ceramic vessel form has often been associated with the human form and condition and these pieces emphasize the importance of the eyes when forms are masked. I would like to expand these pieces into a large grouping, all masked with social and physical distancing.

Alan Garfield

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait with 3 Masks

charcoal on arches paper

I created this self-portrait after putting a rather direct "Why I Wear a Mask" sign on my office door.

Andonia Giannakouros

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Early Light

oil and wax on panel

The paintings of Edward Hopper kept coming to mind, walking through empty streets and past empty restaurants. The convenience shop within easy biking distance to my house went out of business. I'm drawn to Hopper's structured white light. The pattern on the blanket is mullein, which is therapeutic for the lungs and grows wild in my father's Greek village – to which travel has been restricted.

Barbara Arnold Heitzman

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Stepping Into the COVID Time

cold wax, oil, pastel, and collage

I have painted myself stepping from the life I knew prior to this uncertain "COVID Time." I am holding a chess piece because it feels as if I am playing a game with Time. The flowers represent the hope I find being with nature, and the hummingbirds remind me of my mother, who passed in March 2020, just as COVID-19 arrived.

Rabbecca Jayne Hennessey

GUTTENBERG, IOWA

The Longest April

oil on panel

April brought with it my first face mask and a series of emotions: fear and confusion while trying to remain hopeful. I hoped to convey that mix in this self-portrait. It was a strange time in isolation away from family and loved ones, but a good time to be focused in my studio, and so I tried to remain positive. The smirk on my face can't be helped – it is inherited from my father.

Zoe Hermsen

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Close to the Sun, Distant

watercolor on paper

As the weather has warmed, I've been spending more time outside; instead of my freckles and sunburn commemorating an afternoon with friends, they recall time spent alone and in reflection. The world encroaches and yet is out of my grasp.

Alda Kaufman

DUBUQUE, IOWA

En Plein Air

watercolor on Yupo paper

Country living allows me to enjoy nature in my back yard. This setting softens the impact of the current epidemic.

Bailey Keimig-Gehrke

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Flowers in My Hair

needlepoint

COVID-19 has obviously ruined everything, but it did help me slow down and make new things.

Nancy Kenney

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Torn Between

collage and mixed media on paper

I've been "torn between" downward spirals and trying to be positive about the pandemic. My feelings have varied from fear to creativity to being very still.

Jan Lavacek

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Personal Reflection

oil primer and acrylic on found object

Isolating gave me the time recently to create this self-portrait. This mirror image painted on a mirror allows the viewer and the reflected environment to become part of the artwork.

Sue Lemon

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Travel Past

acrylic on canvas

During the 2020 pandemic, my “longing to travel” was enhanced. Revisiting memories and photo albums had to suffice. I am an antique lover. Old buildings fascinate me. This acrylic rendering reflects the rich experience of visiting colorful bygone days. A photo of the historic Buchanan County train station in Independence, Iowa was my inspiration.

Ioana Mamali

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Viral Corona

oil on canvas

During the media call for volunteer self-isolation we have been reminded of the old hygienic rules: wash your hands, keep your underwear clean, and stay in a ventilated space. I hope that soon, vaccinated or unvaccinated, everybody will be unmasked.

Randy Mesch

DUBUQUE, IOWA

The Dude

latex and acrylic on canvas

When the Busted Lift closed during the COVID-19 quarantine, the dude lost his access to the men’s room chalkboard where his “Dudisms” are presented. This painting and a white board replaced that venue for him.

Nacole Meyermiller

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Green Girl

acrylic on canvas

During the COVID-19 experience I have felt many aspects of emotions ranging from pure frustration to a deep well of gratitude that has lent to a more dynamic perspective regarding our society and personal development. I am closer to thriving than I’ve ever been. And more aware of my environments. Ever Grateful.

Thérèse Mulgrew

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Self-Portrait

oil on canvas

This painting exemplifies the solitude and self-reflection that I experienced during quarantine. With the state of the world being what it is, I was forced to quiet my mind and consider my role in the world – as a citizen, as an artist, as a friend, daughter, and sister – and how this moment will change us moving forward.

Gregory T. Nelson

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait: Surrounded by the Virus in Quarantine

digital drawing on paper

Fear of the COVID-19 pandemic and safety for everyone isolated us all. No hair cuts, a limited wardrobe, and just wishing it would all go away. Striving for the desire to go back to some sense of normalcy and not sure how or what that will look like.

Heather Noethe

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Rundown

digital drawing on paper

Somedays it’s just hard to be motivated to do anything.

Nicole O’Brien

STRAWBERRY POINT, IOWA

Reflections From Home

watercolor and pencil

This portrait reflects what brings me peace while at home – solitude, the contented sounds of animals who live in a world oblivious to the pandemic, and the peacefulness of the silenced left side of my brain surrendering to the right hemisphere impulses of my brain expressed through art.

Tim Olson

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait with a Temperature of 97.1 F

oil on panel

The frame is an important part of the piece. I have carved into it the COVID-19 checklist (which always includes my current temp) that I have to fill out every time I go to see my dad.

Deb Otto

DUBUQUE, IOWA

At the Back of My Mind

oil on panel

Since March of this year COVID-19 has been a constant, lurking in my conscious or unconscious brain. Pushing the virus out of my thoughts seems impossible and this image illustrates my worry.

Chloe Peil

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Fever Dream

acrylic on canvas

My experience with COVID-19 feels like a fever dream, and that's what I based my portrait around; the feeling of being in a dream. I make this connection because a dream can realistically last a few minutes but it feels like an eternity. And that's how living with COVID-19 has felt.

Stacy Peterson

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Virtual Self

digital image

Virtual meetings, webinars, virtual artist talks, virtual baby showers, virtual birthday gatherings, virtual family check-ins. The virtual world has emerged and evolved in my professional and social life during COVID-19. Initial relief and relish at remaining connected to the work and the people that I care about has given way to apprehension towards the pervasive virtual self.

Andrew Raeside

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Two Valiant Attempts at Containment

acrylic and ink on paper

This abstract self-portrait represents the fear of spreading sickness to the people around one.

Robert H. Rivoire

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Beauty

photography slideshow

I titled my compilation of images "Beauty" because that's one of the things that keeps me going: it's there, all around, and I am so lucky that I can see it – almost anywhere. My images help me to cope. I also keep playing my harmonicas, riding my bike, and walking my Sheltie – all critical to sanity.

Jacob Robertson

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Maori Aboriginal Whale Hook Surprise

acrylic on canvas

I've traveled the world to New Zealand and Australia and came back to my hometown of Dubuque. The COVID-19 isolation has unlocked in me the urge to share in my community and reach out through my art to make new friends. These pieces are influenced by my travel and immersion in the culture. I'd like to celebrate the Aboriginal and Maori Culture that influenced these pieces. The superficial world of social media has left me burned out and achy from all of the bad news and I plan to continue to take refuge in my art.

Wendy S. Rolfe

PEOSTA, IOWA

Self-Portrait

oil on panel

These images are a result of self-reflection and awareness into my fearful psyche of isolation juxtaposing the desire to rise above a newly limited world with growth. The first image reflects a sense of being swallowed and consumed by despair...the second image is my desire to escape and grow my perception of understanding. These paintings are a part of a Ladder series I am presently working on.

Kay Schroeder

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Blind Contour Self-Portrait

ink on paper

While the pandemic has changed how we live our daily lives, I don't feel like the experience has been all negative. I have been challenged to get creative and to connect in new ways. I have been reminded to say yes to life and all that it has to offer.

Henry Ralph Schroeder, age 20 months

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait

mixed media on paper

Henry enjoys how the yarn hair on his Self-Portrait tickles his nose and makes him laugh!

Abby Schrup

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Portraits of the Pandemic, Face Covering: Mask, Face Covering: Nose in a Book, and Face Covering: Stop and Smell the Roses
embroidery

This series started with the Mask piece, and expanded to show what else I have been doing during the pandemic: reading, gardening, and, as seen through my selected medium, stitching. As an introvert, social distancing is right up my alley!

Joslyn Shireman, age 10

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Be Happy and Be Safe

found objects and collage on wood

Collage using things I found at Grandma and Grandpa's house. I am scared of COVID-19 and bored. I get rid of the boredom by doing crafts.

Gary Stoppelman

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Untitled

digital photograph

A landscape of my mind from early spring.

Lisa Towers

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Then Make It Fabulous

gold, copper, and silver leaf, and oil on canvas

Early in the pandemic, when it first became apparent that masks were important to keeping us safe, I made myself a white mask. I instantly hated how surgical it looked and rummaged in boxes until I found a few pieces of solid-colored fabric to use with a dense weave. As my intense fear of the virus subsided due to my conviction that mask-wearing was keeping me safe, I ventured to the fabric store and got the most colorful fabric I could find, along with bling and feathers to create the side "earring" as you see depicted in my painting. Everywhere I go with that mask, people stop me and tell me how much they like it. Children are especially interested. In coming up with an idea for a self-portrait for this exhibition, I thought I would combine my desire to encourage mask-wearing with my love for the work of Gustav Klimt, and a stash of gold leaf that a dear friend gave me years ago. As an art teacher, I have encouraged my students to create fun masks, though I have yet to see one. There is still time. I have also encouraged my students to create a self-portrait for this exhibition as a record in time, one that 100 years from now, someone will see and realize that they are looking at a COVID self-portrait from 2020!

Hana Tysver Velde

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Early September

watercolor and ink on paper

As I sat on my deck last week having dinner with my family and watching the sun set it really hit me that the season was already turning to fall – my children were back to school, I was starting teaching soon, everything was the golden-brown-green of late summer, and I still was holding onto hope for a moment of traditional, carefree summer play; time at the pool, being with friends (without 6 feet and masks and bring your own picnic), our annual 2,000+ mile road-trip to visit our family in the Northwest – my yearly recharge with cold, clear mountain streams, the smell of pine needles drying in the heat, the comforting loom of mountains, and the welcoming smiles of my children's Washingtonian and Montanan grandmas. I needed to write this poem to say goodbye to the summer of 2020, because we've been here by ourselves, and that has been wonderful and lonely, and special and sad. The fossil fragments were collected while playing with my children in the springs and creeks at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve, Mines of Spain, and at Backbone State Park.

Hana Tysver Velde

Rian, age 13

Mica, age 10

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Sketchbook Collaboration

handmade sketchbook, mixed media

As a teaching artist, my big creative push this summer was to produce a series of 11 weekly youth art adventure videos, using only the resources and materials that I (and the target audience of PreK-5th graders) would have already lying around the house or leftover from their school art box. For me, that meant tapping into the amazing art of children's picture books from our bookshelves, and enlisting the collaborative energy of my own children. My favorite pages are the ones my children and I created together, but I also love the small and wonderful

projects that were inspired by my own old-favorite picture books, or by ones recommended to me by Mica and Rian. Hopefully our combined efforts inspired other families to gather together to create, or at least helped other kids to have some fun and feel some connection during a long, quiet summer.

Angela Ventris

DUBUQUE, IOWA

March 27 - Angemla Ventimiglia

digital photograph

Angemla Ventimiglia is a producer at NPR station KUGH in Union Gap, Washington. She is the creator of the podcast Cereal, an in depth look at the seedy underbelly of America's beloved breakfast food. In this award winning series that sent shock waves throughout kitchens across the country, Angemla interviews cereal experts, and goes undercover to enter several factories to find out why flavors like Post's Chicken and Waffles, and General Mill's Jolly Ranchers cereal exist. All this to discover who actually eats those awful crap flavors when delicious choices like Peanut Butter Cap'n Crunch and Fruity Pebbles are far superior. Sponsored by Mailchimp.

Angela Ventris

DUBUQUE, IOWA

April 29 - Flight Attendant

digital photograph

The pandemic put on hold a trip I was supposed to take with my mom, to France. Since I wasn't able to take that trip, I decided to do the next best thing, which was dress up as a flight attendant and try to fit oversized luggage into a closet that was too small.

Mark Weiland

DUBUQUE, IOWA

Self-Portrait 1

oil on canvas

A 90-minute study, done late at night to capture a more realistic emotional response to COVID-19.