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Humboldt in the Time of Covid - Digital Achieve

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My name is Nicholas Dodson and I will be telling of my personal experience during the Covid pandemic. I spend most of my time creating art pieces in every possible medium I can. Since the pandemic it has become difficult for even the simplest of pleasures but it has given us new understandings and insights into the world that should stay with us.

In my art I enjoy reclaiming discarded items that are left on the street for free but because of covid I can't get myself to pick up anything off the street. Local viewings of my art has reduced significantly due to individuals not wanting, nor being aloud, to gather in a small studio. The pieces that do get sold require special amenities in order to give the appearance of a sterile environment.

When it comes to the essential I believe we have become both too lax and too rigid in meaning. An essential worker, I believe, is one that is required to sustain a business that is absolutely necessary. Every worker who has worked during the pandemic is essential. I believe we are too willing to call a business essential in order to maintain the economy. Essential should pertain to sustaining life not bolstering it. Groceries are essential because if you go without food and water you die. Paints, clothes, movies, and other things to make your life more entertaining should not be considered essential.

Covid has helped the planet, though. The environmental impact is visible. There are clearer waters and sky's and animals have begun to flourish where they haven't. It seems as though some have come to appreciate the small things we used to take for granted. Human touch has become more valuable and appreciated than I have seen in my 28 years on this planet. I was very lucky to be able to take this time to expand on interests and acquire new skills that I otherwise would have missed or passed up on. I was also able to just get to the little things that I let go from the day to days.

The stress and anxiety of the past year is nothing to scoff at. Personally I have been watching the news, multiple news sources, and fact checking every little detail that I hear since Covid was murmurs. I wake up in panic attacks at least weekly if not more often than that. It seems like covid is all I can talk about these days. Each day there's new information that compounds on the already towering situation. Luckily I have my art to take my mind off of it when I'm home. Unfortunately, I take a step outside and everything hits like a freight truck.

I was very lucky to have only been furloughed for a couple months and my work's compensation covered most of my expenses. I applied for unemployment and was able to use that to cover the last bit before I was allowed to go back to work.

I don't believe this pandemic will end in the way most hope. It looks to be here and to be very aggressive. The masks will stay but the fight over them will dissipate. We will still be greeted by plexiglass everytime we go to interact with the world. Delivery businesses will continue to dominate the way people receive food and groceries. Schools should adopt a mixed teaching style; incorporating distanced learning with in person learning to better fit more learning styles. As for me,, I'm going to continue to create at 4am as I have panic attacks over if I washed my hands for the full 20 seconds. Overall the pandemic has been tough but it will hopefully have bettered us and brought us together when we get back to some sort of normality.