

Art

IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Three Profiles

We asked a few artists connected to the area to reflect on what this shelter-in-place time has meant for them.



Renee Bott
Painter

"I'm a social person, so the shelter-in-place quarantine definitely poses a challenge for me. I am trying to stay positive, thinking about how this time serves as an incentive to really focus on my artwork. There have been long hours in my tiny studio, thinking about how we are all

interconnected. This interconnection is essential for our survival, and it is what makes our lives meaningful. I hope to use that thought as inspiration for my next body of work."

www.reneebott.com



David Berkeley
Songwriter/Performer

David is a very talented songwriter and performer (the son of Sandy and Tom Friedland of Claremont) who has been recognized by *Rolling Stone*, *Paste Magazine*, *SF Chronicle*, *The New York Times* and many others. David and his wife and children

recently self-quarantined in Rhode Island after evacuating from their sabbatical year in Madrid. During this time, David has been writing and posting songs for all of us living in shelter-in-place. You can listen to his sublime voice and amazing heartfelt poetic lyrics on youtube by using this web address: <https://tinyurl.com/songsfromthequarantine>.



Jerome Szymezak
Photographer

"Most of my photos are from my travels, be they around the world or just across the street. Carrying the camera and reminding myself that it is ever with me enables me to be more vulnerable — a good starting point for any artist — and, no doubt, all the more critical in this time of crisis when my emotions are just

below my 'ever-thinning' surface. I believe our sheltering- in place and devoting ourselves to our inner artist will be a major factor in what restores our faith, and sanity, in our abilities to always be there for each other. Now is the time to indulge in the healing power of whatever our artistic inclinations might be — music, painting, dance — and take heart in the knowledge that this too shall pass and we will all be the better for it. All the better for each other.

It's all about connection. An ironic yearning to be more connected even as we remind ourselves to stay '6 feet apart.'"

www.art101.com/jsp

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