

“Remote Portraits”

We are suddenly in another era. It is difficult to process what's really happening and all together the perspectives for the next future have to change.

Many of us stop, wonder about what they're doing in their lives, wonder about a deeper meaning to this experience, or just about the changes this will bring to our daily lives.

So, in a way, many of us need to be creative driven by a survivor instinct. Because I think art, in hard times, returns to its inner purpose: showing the unknown, the mystery of the human being, giving a silent answer to questions that logic can't explain.

In time like this art can give us the strength to accept our fragilities, to see the beautiful part in them.

We may be restricted to stay home, but if we are lucky, we have a lot of ways to communicate from behind our four walls. Video calls reconnect us with people who live far from us and whom we haven't contacted in a long time.

We are home alone but we are together in a way we've never been before. Because we have the time and the way to be together, but also because we realize the virus makes us all vulnerable: the virus is part of nature and it doesn't make any differences from social, economic or racial conditions, opening spotlights on the human condition as just a simple part of nature.

We could rediscover the powerful but often forgotten quality of the internet: the possibility to meet people from the whole world without a practical or economical goal, just to enrich ourselves through the “different” other.

The project aims to connect people through the act of painting portraits. The last two weeks of May I painted portraits of random strangers who replied to our open call while having a web call with them.

Painting portraits has always been my truest passion. To me, it is a way to be connected to others in a special way, to take part in someone else's life without words and feeling part of something bigger. At the moment, painting portraits via de webcam while being alone is a way of seeking human contact.

My portraits are inspired from the specific energy of the person in front of me: this experience is a learning process, a way to connect with a person I've never met before. At the same time the person who gets the portrait, looks at himself through other eyes. The person trusts me to look at him and translate my feelings about him/her on paper. In this way there is a kind of intimate dialogue between two strangers that enriches both of them beyond words.

