

The virtual exhibition *Parallel Universes* will feature six extremely skilled and wide ranging artists. Their artworks are sure to induce emotions, tell stories, recall memories, and create whimsy through a delightful variety of medium. Each artist has presented a series of pieces that outline their individual creative capacities. Viewers are invited to interpret the stories for themselves and therefore the experience of *Parallel Universes* will be unique to each one. Everyone is different and, wonderfully enough, this exhibition celebrates and encourages it.

Ben Poarch is an award winning photographer and printmaker. His series of photographs he has entitled *Infectious Development* features images taken from national parks on the brink of closure due to COVID-19. Ben also notes that the lith development process which was used reminded him of the spreading of a virus.

Karma Reclusado is influenced by old movies and creates digital renderings of people with a touch of whimsy. Welcoming viewers to interpret her works, she incorporates colors and whimsy in her retro feeling pieces. Karma has also included an artwork inspired by the ongoing pandemic titled *Nights of Abstract Adjustments*.

Laura Holzinger stepped out of the corporate world due to illness, however soon discovered this to be a blessing. She dove back into a world of art, creating award-winning works in a wide variety of media. There is obvious joy and whimsical beauty woven into every fiber of the impressive work titled *Birds on a Cape* which is a full size cape completed entirely out of folded paper, featuring birds in a contrasting color.

Maggie Skidmore is an award winning ceramic artist and 3D designer who teaches ceramics at a local school of arts. Her works are thought provoking and compelling, utilizing

complementary textures and colors to achieve intriguing results. Maggie's sculpture, Tree Bones, captures attention with its contrasting bone-like top and wooden trunk.

Neda Towfiq studied art and design in Italy. She is diligent in creating every day, seeing beauty and potential in the simplest items. This can be observed in the watercolor paintings Neda creates on delicate packing paper. Her vibrant paintings such as Praise allow the observer to feel a reflection of emotions.

Stephanie Alacon is a sculptor and glass blower who studied for a time in Sweden. Her works create tension and wonderment. There is definite a science fiction feel to many of Stephanie's works, especially the sculpture Just a Thought. This work is apprehensively beautiful, while feeling as though it may move at any moment.