

PAST FORWARD

Past Forward is an exhibition that remembers a time in the not so distant past when life before COVID-19 turned our world upside down. A giant blanket has settled on and around us giving us time to contemplate our lives and for some, reminisce about our family and friends.

Art is created to touch our lives, to make us think, or even to entertain. These artworks will allow the viewer a little escapism that is welcome now. Togetherness, playfulness, laughter, and social well-being, we all long for those times. As we move forward, we will enjoy life once again, however modified.

Self-quarantining at home has been thrust upon us. "Stay Put" by Ben Poarch reminds us to do so in an oblique way. Many of his artworks tend to confine you in place, restrict your movements, not allowing you to roam. One wrong move can be painful, heed his call.

The works of Karma Reclusado have a lightheartedness. Let us dispense with our current distractions and appreciate the amusement of her characters.

Laura Holzinger's "Sisters" brings one such delight. The painting draws you in as though you are on a towel at the beach on a summer day. The sisters are braving the water together, is the water cold? Is there a wave coming? Or are they just enjoying one another's company? If you listen carefully, you can almost hear their laughter.

Many of the pieces by Neda Towfiq have an intimacy. "Tears of Joy" makes one think they are a participant in the conversation of the story that caused this refreshing reaction. One cannot help but chuckle right along with joy.