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ART 271 Museum and Gallery Exhibition

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Solitude

Being alone is often quite an uncomfortable place for many after extended periods of time. Some people love the feeling of being around another person while others find peace with seclusion. This virtual exhibition explores the curated works of six professional artists during this unusual, solitudinous moment in history. Each artist has experienced a multitude of difficulties and educational triumphs throughout their individual walks in life; however, what brings them together now is a shared understanding of being alone.

Solitude shares work across a myriad of media including photography, digital paintings, traditional media on experimental supports, and three-dimensional art. Despite a wide array of expressing one's self, the message of the artworks illustrates the emotions that a person may go through while being in isolation. Being in solitude can be a mysterious and fearful place in many regards. A person can become unsure of their own future if there is no one around to reflect upon certain ideations or experiences.

Benjamin Poarch responds to the global pandemic by capturing shots of nature with scarce materials for printing. *Rock and Hard Place* depict a desolate landscape with unknown horizons awaiting in the distance. Much like when a person is alone, this image describes an uneasy chill with a hidden future. As the exhibition continues, a viewer can interpret possible hopes, monotonous duties, and overwhelming emotions from successive pieces.

Maggie Skidmore's *Sacrificial Swan* acts as a symbol of self-comfort in times of loneliness. In healthy circumstances, people consult others, mentors, or even therapists. In more negative times, the bottom of a bottle may be deemed as the solution to being alone. However, people are never around others their entire lives. Especially in the midst of a quarantine, contact with the majority of people is severed. Being in solitude grants the opportunity to comfort one's self, allowing the person to propel forward to a brighter future.

As a person experiences a healthy outcome, they may reach a place of recognition of their triumphs. *Praise* is a piece by Neda Towfiq that is created with watercolor on packaging paper. The mere concept of a beautiful medium on cheap material treated as scrap is enough to be considered a feat on its own. It is this part of the narrative where the exhibitor is faced with a joyful man beautifully rendered on fragile support.

The thought of living in an isolated manner is quite haunting. *Solitude* immediately recognizes this reality within the beginning images. The virtual exhibition considers the motions that a person may follow or grow anxious over. However, the narrative does not end there. There are indeed ways of thriving and coming to a light-hearted resolve.