Subject: Wisdom from artists

Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 at 1:31:12 PM Central Standard Time

From: Flow Art Space

To: susanhensel@yahoo.com



image credit: Chromatic Wave by Susan Hensel

A solstice restart

On this winter solstice, it's an excellent time to reflect upon what this year has taught us, and set some intentions going forward. In an email in September, I asked for your advice and to hear about your projects during this trying year. I was certainly heartened by many responses. Many of you provided inspiration to restart and move forward. Several artists echoed one another with their advice.

Ann Ginsburgh Hofkin:

"I find myself looking for and listening to small things to gain a new sense of balance." This sentiment is echoed somewhat by Painter Gayle Cole's words of advice to value and cultivate the ordinary.

Hofkin shared a joint project she and others created, funded by the Covenant Foundation and centered on climate change. Take a look at her work, and those of her colleagues:

https://www.sabesjcc.org/about/muddy-waters-online-exhibit-2/

Susan Hensel (image of her artwork above), who lives and works within a mile of where George Floyd was killed, remains hopeful for steps forward in social justice. While venues were shuttered and opportunities to show work were limited, she presented several exhibitions on her website, including "In and Out of the Fold," and "BOOKISH." <u>SusanHenselProjects.com.</u>

Stephan Kistler has been building an art studio and gallery space on the East Side of Saint Paul, and helped develop and present a street-side art festival centered on justice and equality. https://www.solidaritystreetgallery.org

Several artists emailed that they have used time this year to build more online presence, joining sites like zazzle where artwork can be applied to facemasks.

And Catherine Reid Day created this piece:

"We found a vaccine but we were not prepared for what the vaccine would unleash." *

by Catherine Reid Day

We found a COVID vaccine. And the vaccine we found unleashed a new feeling of love, a love we'd never understood.

Administered
by a shot to the heart,
we required
all billionaires take it

first.

To be inoculated with this vaccine opened up a response of deep generosity.

Transformational generosity.

An automatic reparations response.

Reparations for the harms done through conquest, genocide, colonization, war, land grabs, slavery, greed.

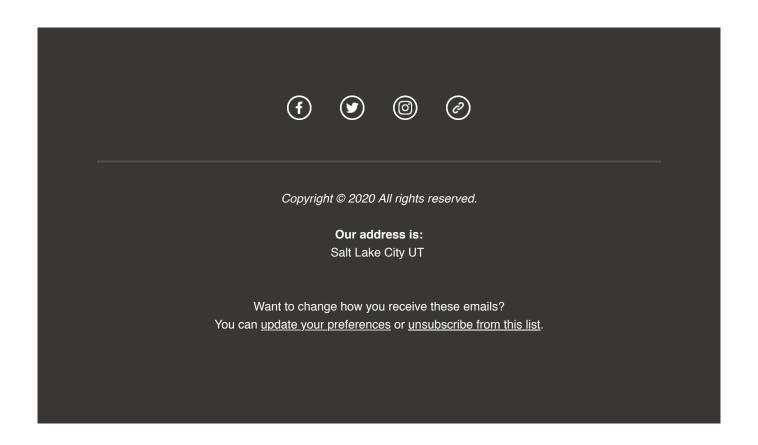
As the billionaires
began to give without hesitation
banks and bitcoin devolved.
No longer allowed to skim fees,
instead, they became quaking aspens,
Pando's expansive root system,
all interconnected and wide
spread with a purpose
to seed fair re-distribution.
Compensation for all wrongs.

New roots feeding

a massive organic system, giving life and beauty where before there was extraction, destruction. A rebalancing that means more than recovery. A redistribution for truly profound healing. **** To give yourself a vaccine Is to give love to a whole community. It means we do our part To protect And care for others. * Writing prompt from Roy Guzman via Miami Book Fair convening August, 2020 Wishing you and those you love health and happiness in the new year ahead.

Melissa May Metzler Creative human being

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