

Jennifer Martin
2021
“Isolation”

The work that I chose was one of the photographs used for my midterm project in my Lens Art class this semester. The assignment was to create a series of photographs based off of a specific theme. For my theme, I chose to capture my experience with quarantine due to Covid-19. I considered taking pictures of masked crowds, or people through windows, or a Covid testing site. But then I got the idea to take all of the pictures from within my room. After all, it would be embracing the true spirit of quarantine. For this specific picture, I wanted to show the feeling of taking online classes. I made sure to keep the photo very dark, using only dim purple LED lights and my laptop on max brightness to really illuminate and isolate the figure.

I think that the strongest aspect of this photo is easily the use of lighting. The dim purple lights contrast nicely with the blaring light from the computer. The dark background helps to isolate the figure and adds to the theme of quarantine. The bright, multicolored hoodie that I chose to wear helps add a nice contrast to the purple, especially when it's illuminated by the laptop screen. I think that I could have used the rule of thirds more effectively, the image is very centered and seems a little plain in my opinion. A different angle could have really helped make this image more dynamic.

For this work I chose to convey my experiences with quarantine due to Covid-19. All of my classes are online, which makes every day feel so robotic. I wake up, I log into my computer for 8 hours to attend classes, do homework, and study, and then I go to sleep. I try not to go out too much in order to avoid getting or passing on Covid. I struggled to make friends this year because I never met anyone in person. 2020 was a hard year for everyone, and like many of my peers, it caused my depression to spiral. 2021 has been even more chaotic for me, I can go from having a great week and making friends to ending up in the hospital a few days later. I've gotten such emotional whiplash from this semester that sometimes I just wish I was back in 2020 when everything sucked but at least it had some consistency. I wanted my work to be more modern with a hint of surrealism added in.

Course: A-S 285 Lens Art
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