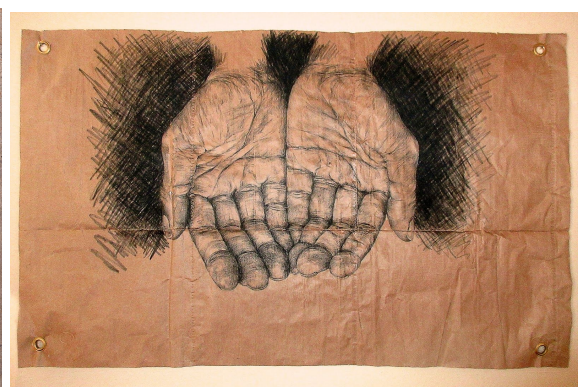
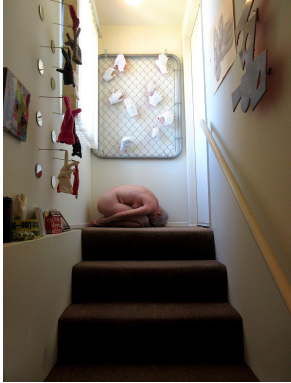


ART SAVES HUMANITY

Submission Review 2020 - Lilli Muller - see | me competition, may 21st - June 25th



Tell us about yourself and your creative story. Multidisciplinary artist Lilli Muller(German) lives and works in Los Angeles. As award winning and internationally-collected artist, she has been honored twice by the City of LA with the “Arts Humanitarian Award” for her contributions. She has exhibited during the Venice Biennale, 2017/2019 “Getting people engaged in the artmaking process offers them a different awareness while mirroring their own life experiences. As I have witnessed over years, it is no longer simply about the artwork itself, but the personal impact it has on each individual, and any change it may cause. This inspires me to continue making art for the people.”

Describe How the work you are submitting relates to the theme of this competition

THE DRAWINGS: “WE ARE HUMANITY”

The entire world is currently undergoing a major paradigm shift and is now resulting in the displacement of millions of people. The current situations we find ourselves in forces us to re-evaluate our existence and demand massive reform and

re-evaluation. This global volatility pushes us to the brink of the biggest humanitarian crisis of all: the loss of humanity and the environment as we know it. Yet it is an important time of courage to reflect and redefine our future on this planet.

The struggle, the pain, the loss and agony people have to endure while fleeing war torn countries, the threat of death through destruction, torture, famine, environmental disasters and the list goes on and on, inspired me to these drawing series called: "WE ARE HUMANITY". I want to honor these unknown souls, their struggles to stay alive, their courage to escape. "Hands are the mirror of your soul". Holding hands, pulling you through, praying hands, open hands to welcome, all standing for their own personal story: past, present and future, powerful, engaging the viewer in a dialog and awareness of the continuously mounting global refugee crisis, the ongoing diaspora around the world, the violence towards man and environment, as a main root of cause and survival against all odds. They leave behind a trace of their identity, as if suspended in space, a last sign: "I was here."

These pieces are powerful reminders of each person's individual struggle to survive, remembering victims, commemorating survivors, welcoming foreigners and opening our hearts. A reminder to re-evaluate by reflecting on our own past and present, to encourage innovative solutions for the future path of our survival of humanity – individually, and globally.

WE ARE HUMANITY.

THE PHOTOS: "HEADTRIPPIN"

Inspired by our current events in this time of self-isolation, social distancing and quarantine, I felt compelled to explore a bit deeper the notions of what confinement really means to each of us individually, as the news - as well as our personal conversations - are dominated by this world-wide situation.

I question how the degree of feeling isolated, locked in, confined, and blocked relate to and are developed through the space and environment we are contained in. Hence, I experimented with various stages and degrees of confinement in my own house and surroundings, to gauge the intensity and feelings that project would evoke in myself and other viewers of these various situations through my visual documentation.

My findings have lead me to consider the relationship between physical and mental confinement, and how physical confinement does not necessary confine your headspace. Your mind can still wander, travel, envision, create, be inspired and expand while being stuck in a contained space. The mind can take you on adventures, invent things, and even have relationships with others. Sometimes the best of what you feel or experience is all in your head.

How do we stay inspired, and can we inspire and empower others while in physical or mental confinement?

WE ARE HUMANITY.

Reviewer Feedback

It is incredible how you adapt to different forms of art. This includes sculpture, drawing, painting, and photography. You flow like water from one to another that means you have a very integral profile. We can tell many things from a person by picturing him/her hands, they are a mirror of what they have been through and drawing them with charcoal makes them so natural and empathic. Additionally, your photography project *HEADTRIPPIN* is fascinating. In a very original way, you represent your inner-self and others during quarantine. Your webpage has a very complete portfolio where we can see your work, that are well pictured, projects and recognitions.

Furthermore, you have a clear idea of the transformative role of art. I see you have won awards for the humanizing role of your works and their powerful messages. The fact that you chose to draw the hands of victims all around the world from a whole bunch of violent situations shows how they can be used to give them a voice and for them not to be forgotten. Your thesis as art as a form to construct humanity has to do a lot with our competition so your work fits very well. Good luck with your artistic process!

Additional Recommendations (resources)

- Article: Art as a Humanizing Agent by Kenneth M. Lansing Art Education Vol. 31, No. 8 (Dec., 1978), pp. 24-27. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3192249?seq=1>
- Article: The Power of Art in A Time of Coronavirus Crisis By Jaya Ramachandran: <https://www.indepthnews.net/index.php/arts-culture/3468-the-power-of-art-in-a-time-of-coronavirus-crisis>
- Book: Art Saves: Stories, Inspiration and Prompts Sharing the Power of Art by Jenny Doh