Laurentina Miksiene

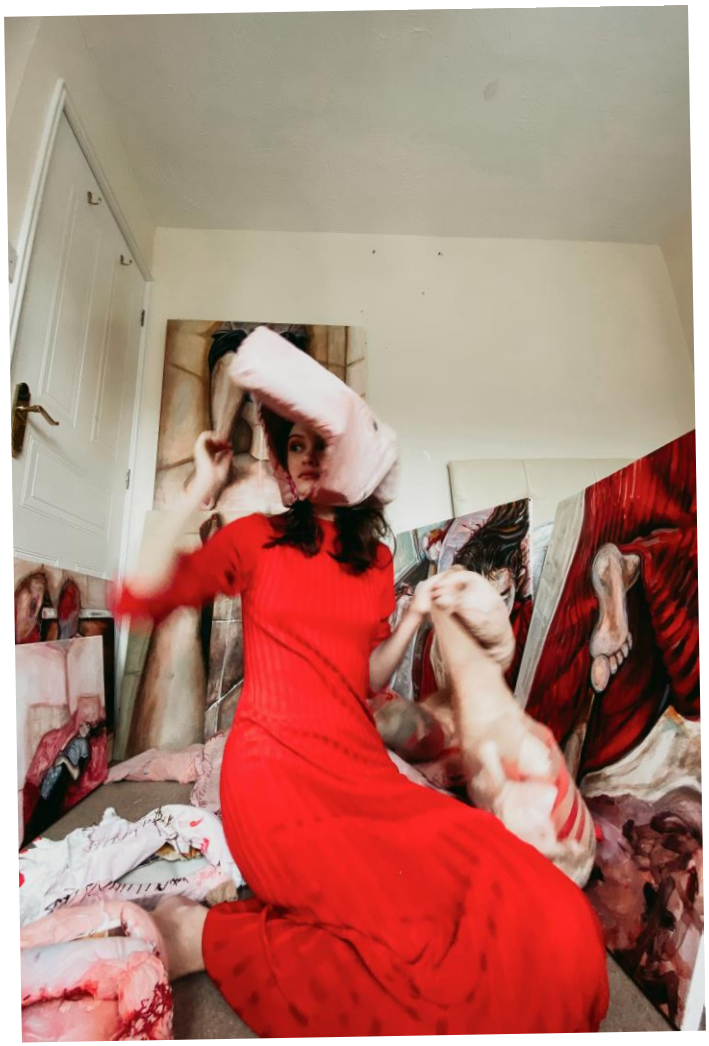
1810605

Personal Philosophies (M5X01708)

BA Photography in the Arts

Ryan Moule

564 words (excluding ''Photoshoot'')



HABITAT

We spent almost all year in lockdown without a natural connection with the outside world, a natural affinity with friends and families. Our home became our prison- safe place, but on the other hand-place, where we felt emptiness and fear. Soon life in lockdown became ''one more tomorrow'' to survive. It wreaked havoc on people's lives worldwide, creating a wave of anxiety and concern, as well as pessimistic thoughts and piles of boredom. Not just my life, but everyone's has been changed by Covid19. All has been put on lockdown. Kids used to wake up early, put on their school uniform, and go to school. Lessons were taught in classrooms by teachers. Online classes, on the other hand, have created a new educational trend. We were taking lessons on our phones and computers from the comfort of our own homes. Our homes became the place to study to work, and live. But I saw it as a challenge to deal with the situation with grit and optimism, allowing me to take advantage of the lockdown. My creativity pushed me to finish the challenge. I found an alternative way how to do series of portraits in lockdown. All the images I took remotely through video call or photographing my computer screen, whatever the quality of the photos was low. Still, I was focusing on the person and their ability to adapt to the situation, and it was my main goal for this kind of work. I was looking to do a simple portrait and space within their home; also, people I photograph sent me their thoughts on coping in lockdown...

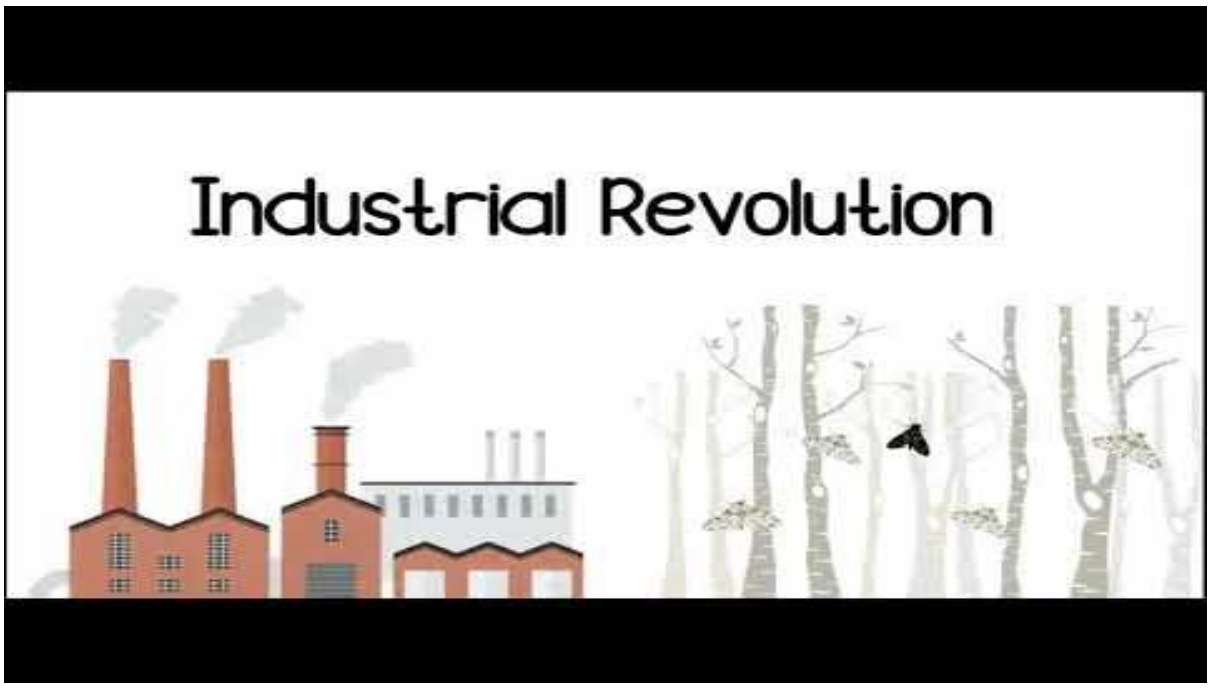
I remembered American photographer Barbara Peacock and her portraits of people in their bedrooms. American Bedroom. She took simple, beautiful series of photographs, and in some way, the images remind me of people in lockdown. “I am learning that there are a lot of lonely people. I am learning that people have stories they want to share if someone will listen. I am learning that people are fragile and conversely very strong. I am learning that being photographed can be an important moment in someone’s life. I am learning to listen.” (Stewart, 2017)

I am strongly agreeing with Barbara that humans are very social and fragile creatures and can feel loneliness and misunderstanding even with close people. It is why I feel it is essential to tell the story to someone who listens.

To do series of portrait of students/artists in lockdown in their natural habitat was born when we did homework with my daughter. As animals are adopting new environment, humans are assuming too. Students have had to rapidly adapt to the situation when struggling with a great deal of confusion about their future. Universities and colleges are now facing unprecedented challenges, and they have responded by adapting teaching, evaluation, and student support programmes. More students were learning alone. Furthermore, compared to pre-crisis interventions, students' stress, anxiety, loneliness, and depressive symptoms increased because of fears of missing out on social activities and concerns about their health, families, friends, and future. Some students deal with lockdown better than others, and I can understand. It is very vulnerable people who have an artistic and sensitive sensation about the world around them. This book will always remind me of the time we lived in, and the problems we faced, and the environment we adapt to during lockdown.

https://mymodernmet.com/barbara-peacock-american-bedroom/

Evolution of the Peppered Moth by Natural Selection



PHOTOSHOOT:

01.02.21

11.30am **Ann Deen** (I found the first lockdown a very positive experience, helped by good weather, I started running doing the couch to 5K, a year on I'm still running. I found a new love of walking and strengthening old friendships. Clapping on our doorsteps every Thursday led to a much better community feel, I got to know my neighbours as friends, we had socially distant street parties to celebrate VE Day and the end of the first lockdown. Zoom quizzes and parties became the new normal for me. This last lockdown has been so much harder, with shorter days and bad weather I was more confined to my home, I missed meeting my friends and family, who I haven't seen for a year, it's not the big things like a holiday I missed it's the simple things just being able to go for a long walk with a few friends and enjoy a coffee at the end, or invite friends to my home for food and drinks, I'm so looking forward to these simple things being allowed again. Throughout all of this last year I feel I have managed to maintain my sense of positivity and mental well being through daily exercise, joining in art and cooking classes online and of course working on my degree.)

12am **Emily Sullivan** (Taking each boring, repetitive, lonely day as it comes, whilst feeling like a prisoner in my own home.)

2pm **Olivia P-j** (So, lockdown has been difficult for me, I have anxiety & panic disorder so being confined to a small space has made this worse. I'm looking forward to being able to go out again and have some sort of routine that distracts me from anxiety.)

02.02.21

11.15am **Estella May Chambers** (Lockdown has been a rough time. It is weird feeling alone even when you are in a house of people. Netflix and Disney + have become my best friends, as well as random bouts of throwing myself into work.)

12.30am **Adam Charlton** (I've kind of split my bedroom into three rooms, the bed to sleep, the beanbag to relax and the desk to work. I built this desk in June and I can barely remember what this room was like before. A lot has happened here, but when I think back and remember, all I see is the drawings or short walks outside... being an artist in this time has become an act of making notes so that when I think back on this time, I have something to remember it by.)

5.30pm **Melissa Rodrigues** (Overwhelming, is the word! I wasn't able to be with part of my family and friends during my entire pregnancy and post-partum.)

04.02.21

13pm **Jasmine Star** (Lockdown has made me feel isolated but being creative helps me pass time. I spend a lot of time in my room painting and drawing, but can't wait to get back to an actual studio space.)

05.02.21

11.45pm **Ricci Hibbertgreaves** (The first Lockdown was difficult, my mental health has plummeted to a stand still where there has been no hope, it's still difficult now but my partner keeps me afloat and trudging on with a hope for something, I don't know what yet but there's something.)

08.02.21

11.30am **Danielle Sleep** (Through these isolating times lockdown has made me feel unmotivated and uninspired, I find myself constantly in a repetitive routine.)

15.30pm **Nico Payne** (I feel alone but at least I've got my dog.)

11.02.21

12pm **Rosie** (Getting dressed up for the most mundane of tasks.)

13.02.21

12pm **Jess Parry** (My work wouldn’t be where it is now without lockdown.It has forced me to live and breathe within the same space as my work. My bedroomhas become my studio and it is that close proximity to my work that has allowed meto really understand the figure now more than ever. It can’t be ignored.)

5pm **Ben Evans** (Having caught the virus early in March 2020 then suffering 10 months odd of the long covid, working as a keyworker in a supermarket and watching as the death toll continues to rise there is a message which has pushed me onwards. Fuck the Tories!)

14.02.21

12pm **Aidan Biddiscombe** (I feel both lost and lucky, and I think I cope but I don't think I have done it well. Just want it to end really.)

17.02.21

1pm **Sophie Rogers** (Starting wire art during lockdown has been the best decision I have ever made. I am very passionate about my new hobby, selling my creations during a pandemic has boosted my confidence a lot with my creative side and I would love to see myself progress. It brings joy to me when friends, family and even strangers support my business and purchase a wire tree from me, it makes me very happy when they receive their creation that I loved making.)

1.30pm **Lauren** (In this third lockdown especially I have recognised just how important it is to look after my mental well-being first and how by doing so it makes things like supporting friends, work and tackling responsibilities much easier. It sounds like something so obvious, but many of us including myself constantly forget to do it.)

18.02.21

16.15pm **Ada Di Palma** (A life lost in an empty gaze and many cigarettes A life lost in an empty gaze and many cigarettes A life lost in an empty gaze and many cigarettes.)

19.02.21

3.30pm **Ellie** (Lockdown is mentally challenging, but helps you appreciate little things.)

22.02.21

12pm **Jam** (For some, there is solace in solitude and the seed that is creativity can be sown and grown under the constructs of constraints.)

24.02.21

3pm **Rebecca Herbert** (Lock down has been awful and miserable but at the same time it has been fairly okay because I have had experiences that I would of had if it didn't happen.)

26.02.21

2.30pm **Dili Pitt** (During lockdown making things has been my way of dealing with thoughts/worries, being able to turn worries into a physical object so that even though it isn’t solved it’s been put in a piece of work which I can finish and put to one side.)

28.02.21

1pm **Fen Shields** (Lockdown makes me feel very isolated and extremely lonely which can effect my motivation. To combat this, I keep myself as busy as I can.)

12.03.21

12pm **Camille Ines Relet** (During the first lockdown I lost unexpectedly two of my relatives in France. I felt helpless and unable to support my family in this situation. I lost my creativity and my feelings for everything. I was hollow, wandering around the house with no purpose, dreading the next phone call. Thankfully, a few close friends kept pushing me and supporting me through this time and I now make sure that I call my parents multiple times per week to check on them as I am still scared to lose more people close to me. It has been a slow journey, but I am getting my creativity and my health back.)

15pm **Dione** (Sometimes I feel like I get lost in my bedroom, like it's my whole world...I have to remind myself that I exist outside of it and people exist outside of my memories of them. I worry I'm losing touch with people. I've always found it hard to connect with people and when I do I hold it very dear to me...I don't want to lose that, y'know? I don't wanna lose myself in myself.)

19.03.21

12.40pm **Chloe Lawless** (Throughout lockdown the concept of time has been made redundant to me as my sleep schedule is no longer existent. This is because I work academically through all ours of the night and sleep through the day and vise-versa. When lockdown end’s I can’t wait to get back to socially interacting with others accessing the university facilities and regulating my internal clock back to normal.)