

Judy M. King

Creative, Fine Art Photographer

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Artist's Statement: "Quarantine"

I was a pariah. Ten years ago, I was in quarantine. Nuclear medicine recast me as a radioactive threat to all human life. Once I recognized parallels between that unpleasant period and life under COVID-19, an idea germinated. I could use the lens of art to artistically educate, empower viewers to confront fear and resentment, and stimulate conversations about pandemic-related psychological and societal changes.

In the story-telling "Quarantine" project, the COVID-19 coronavirus infects my black-and-white photographs. I chose abstracts because they are universally relatable. The abstracts play the roles of spaces: the human body, air, home, and the solar system. Scarlet coronaviruses corrupt the purity of their grayscale.

The pandemic has altered my view of history. All the abstracts had titles in the era BC (Before COVID-19). Transformed by this infection, they bear new names now. Collectively, these images recount invasion, transmission, attempts at eradication, and much more.

The red menace seems to steal the spotlight from the monochrome abstracts. However, look macroscopically. Twelve allied pieces of indomitable art have confined the virus in "Quarantine." The outbreak cannot break out. Art reframes. Art prevails.

Ten years ago, a hospital was the quarantine site; it protected people from my radioactive emissions. Today, humanity is safe by virtue of the art of "Quarantine."