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What Has Lockdown Meant for L.G.B.T.Q. Artists and Writers?

We asked 8 to tell us about the work they are doing in the pandemic and to talk about what lies ahead.

By Ted Loos | June 16, 2020



Lauren Halsey is exploring form and surfaces in her art, from carving gypsum to casting concrete. Czariah Smith

It's a painful paradox for a group of people who have long fought for visibility: Suddenly a pandemic forces them into isolation. Each one is coping in a different way, harnessing their time while looking ahead.

We asked creative people from across the L.B.G.T.Q. spectrum: What have they worked on during this time, how has their thinking been shaped by the experience — and how will they go forward as lockdowns soften? (The following conversations have been edited and condensed.)

Lauren Halsey

The artist, 33, often makes site-specific installations and has had a solo show at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris. She was at home in South-Central Los Angeles.



Ms. Halsey is collaborating on a food distribution program in Watts and South Central in Los Angeles. Lauren Halsey, Summaeverythang Community Center, Los Angeles

I've been spending the time figuring out how I can activate the community ethos outside of the physical space. One thing we've done is an organic produce box donation giveaway to folks in South Central and in Watts. And I'm doing that collaboratively with my studio assistants and my girlfriend. It fits the spirit of my work — soulful. It's a labor of love.

I feel like I've been resetting my pace. The art world has slowed, and I hope the slowness continues. I think it's really cool that online viewing rooms can democratize the platform for artists.

In terms of my work, I have an online show with David Kordansky Gallery featuring hand-carved engravings on gypsum. Because it's being seen in 2-D, I put a lot more effort into the depth of the mark-making. It's helping walk me into my next project, which will be casting concrete blocks. I'm trying to use this time to experiment with surfaces and form. Keeping it funky and light.