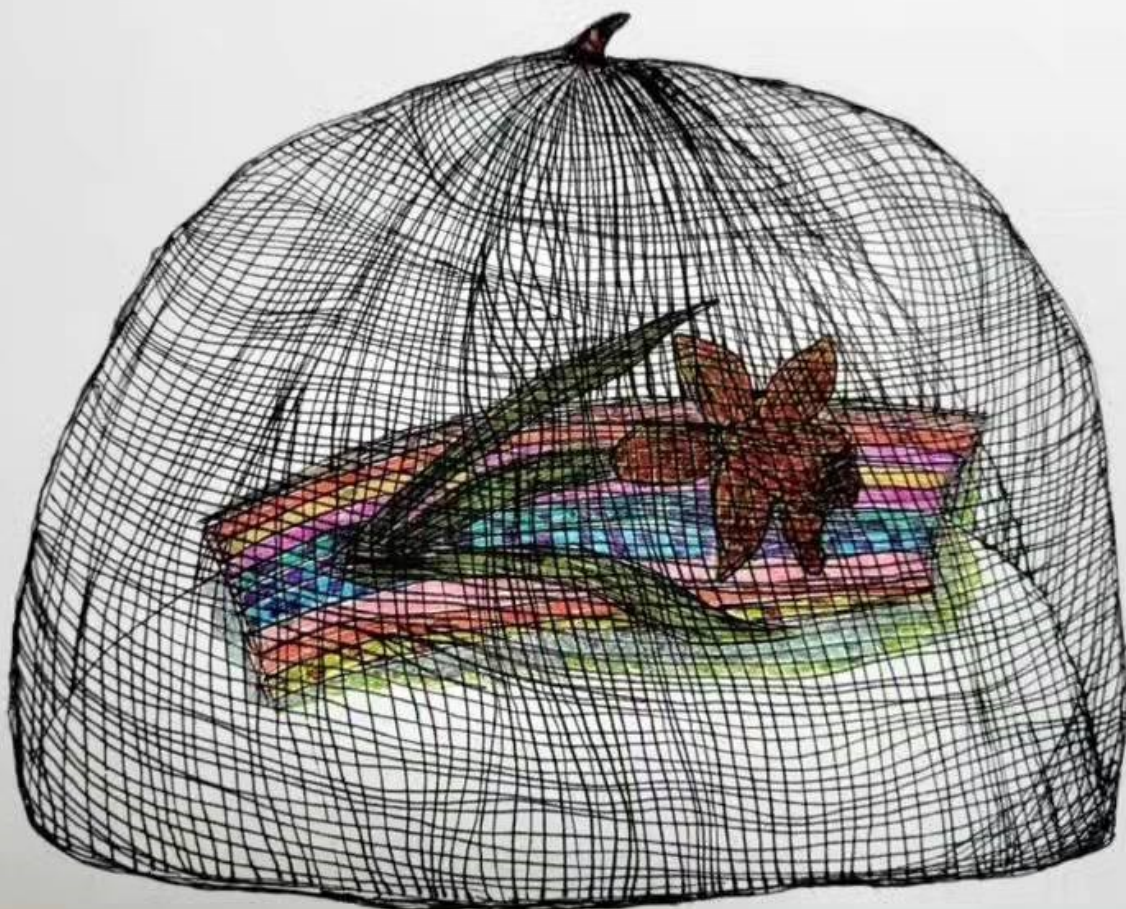




Sheri Larsen (Private collection, New Brunswick, Canada).

Description: This ink drawing is from my 'Caged' series work. I started this series during the beginning of the pandemic. I wanted to portray the global mood of being 'caged' or isolated within our homes. I also felt a sense of trying to 'protect' the things that we may cherish most in life, like our collectibles, sentimental items, and of course all that's important to us in the natural world. The objects within the cage are represented in a more metaphorical sense. Sometimes, I will add an arachnid to the outside of the cage. This lends purposely to a feeling of 'uneasiness' in the drawing. Demonstrating the unpredictable nature of this planet.



Art in the Time of Covid (Sheri Larsen/Jan/24; New Brunswick. Visual artist and metalsmith).

Once the pandemic news was released to the world, I knew immediately that's what my daughter of only 5 years had been sick with. It took two months until she would return to school. The day I brought her to the clinic she was violently ill and extremely tired, the doctor had no possible clue. I told him, I feel like it's similar to pneumonia. He was seriously intrigued then finally sent us home with a course of antibiotics which didn't seem to fix anything. I kept telling my husband I thought maybe our daughter had a rare disease of some sort. I'm so outside of the box, I give up telling people my thoughts because they usually figure I'm overreacting or just plain nuts. There's no one that can over think like I can, I'm fairly certain. I use to believe it to be an insult, being an over thinker, but I realize now that overthinking with the use of common sense and gut instinct can cause you to look at all various angles and even narrow things down by process of elimination. Perhaps even coming to a conclusion that is bang on. I remember feeling utterly disturbed by the way people were treating one another online and out in public; and how much people actually trusted our government and media. It completely blew my mind. I think I didn't work on any art for a few days, maybe a week if I can remember correctly. I was aware of the panic and shock around the globe and within the art world. Many artists had stopped working, they just couldn't bring themselves to focus. The first work I did, with the pandemic very much on my mind, was entitled 'empty chairs' and after that I started my series entitled, 'Caged'. I continued to work on those for a while and selling a handful quite quickly, much to my surprise considering the morbid state of the world. The first piece I sold was purchased by a fellow artist. The drawings were completed using ink on paper in a very time consuming, slow paced manner. Detailed with fine lines creating 'cages' in the form of still life subject with a metaphorical essence. I thought of how most people were feeling very trapped due to lockdown and even when we were able to venture out into the world again, it was for short periods. Don't get me started on the arrows and the hand sanitizer and the face masks in such abundance. I felt blessed to see through the madness of it all and was thankful I could still produce artwork. I went through a process at first of panic like most others, but then anger balanced with feeling numb plus naturally stubborn, and my work continued. The things I realized about myself is I am strong; a fighter with a mind of her own. I have a voice that may share opinions even if others don't always agree and finally, I will find a way to create my artwork in both good and bad times, God willing.

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