

Horrors of the Pandemic

Lizzie Casper

As both an artist and a horror fanatic, I spent most of the 2020 COVID lockdown painting and watching scary movies. It was when I watched Stanley Kubrick's film *The Shining* where I first noticed a distinct correlation between the extreme feelings of cabin fever Jack faces in the movie compared to what most of the world was experiencing during lockdown. This central idea helped me to establish a series of commonalities within the fictional world of horror with the very real horrors the world experienced in 2020.

While this series originally started out as a desire to improve my skills in portraiture, it has developed into a socio-political discussion about wearing masks while also documenting some historical moments which occurred during the pandemic.

Portraits of Dr. Hannibal Lecter from *The Silence of the Lambs*, Jack Torrance from *The Shining*, and characters from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* reflect feelings of isolation, following proper (or improper) mask requirements, and anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccine; while pieces featuring masked characters from *The Purge* represent the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, highlighting the insurrection at the Capitol in Washington DC earlier this year.

I am giving special recognition to my dad, as horror movies have been one of our special bonds. I decided to include him in this series, not only to shine a light on where my love for horror films originated, but to allow audiences to make the connection between how the horrors of our pandemic reality compare and contrast with what we see in fictional horror films.

Annual Purge, 2021

36" x 24"

Oil on canvas

2021

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Anticipation

20" x 16"

Oil on canvas

2021

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Cabin Fever

12" x 16"

Oil on canvas

2020

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Contained

16" x 20"

Oil on canvas

2021

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There He Is!

16" x 20"

Oil on canvas

2021

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Stolen From Us

16" x 20"

Oil on canvas

2021

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