

I began this series of photographs at the onset of the coronavirus in March 2020. A sense of overwhelming loneliness and isolation arose out of the necessity to remain distanced from almost everyone and everything. This densely populated area of cultures, face-to-face education, and all aspects of progress came to a halt. Social distancing, social isolation, loneliness, and self-quarantine all have become the primary means of combating the invisible disease and not so invisible pandemic. The weeks and months that followed began to change the landscape of what was familiar. Yet what did remain was the urban environment dominated by buildings, cement, and occasional greenery.

As economic growth has ceased, alternate means of caring for and maintaining an urban environment have surfaced. Relying on our individual models and the existing programs of action that surround us has been challenged. Public policies addressing the needs of global health as well as economic and climate issues have taken the forefront.

The feeling of sameness, of maintaining a certain homeostasis, was apparent as I went from

building to building, feeling the isolation, the solitude. The photographs are all somewhat the same and possess similar qualities. It is an unavoidable collision and conflict that exists in the way we see and what we feel. There is the self that is concealed and the self that adapts to the environment. Yet, what remains is the sense of vastness—the blue sky with enormous clouds. There is a larger world, a universe that is out of our control. The urban landscape maintains a certain grit in contract with nature, a larger force ... a virus that is in the air ... which we are slowly dismantling and eradicating.

## Urban Isolation July 2020

*Glenda F. Hydler*

*Glenda F. Hydler is a contemporary photographer/painter and book artist who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York (<https://hydler.wixsite.com/art-pandemic> and <https://glendafhydler.com>). As a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, she went on to study English Literature at California State University at Northridge and*

*later obtained her master's degree in painting from City University of New York. Hydler's artist books (135 one-of-a-kind books) have been acquired by the Schlesinger Library, Harvard University, as well as by the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.*











































