



## Creativity in the Time of Quarantine

We asked 24 of our favorite creative minds—including Thom Browne, Dua Lipa, Desus & Mero, Robert Pattinson, and Ottessa Moshfegh—to tell us what they're discovering about art, and about themselves, in this age of isolation.

BY THE EDITORS OF GQ

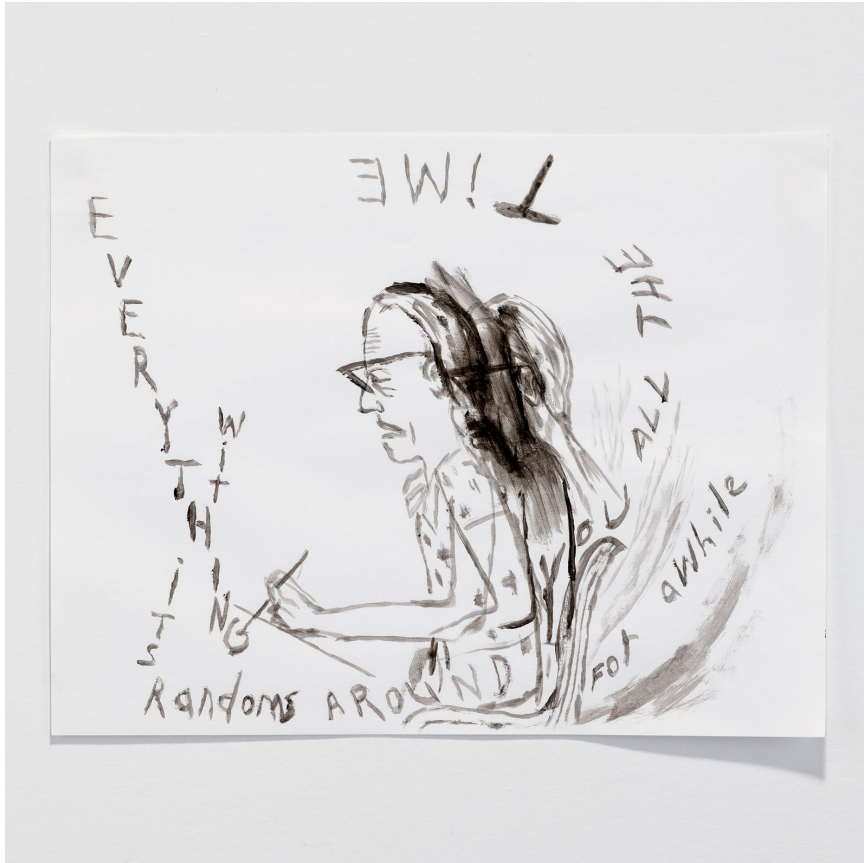
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Chris Johanson, *Meditative Homeostasis Painting 2*, house and acrylic paints on recycled canvas, 19" x 19" © Chris Johanson; Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York / Photograph: Mario Gallucci

## Chris Johanson

**For Johanson—a central figure in San Francisco’s Mission School art movement—painting under quarantine is a form of meditation.**



Chris Johanson's self-portrait, drawn in less than one minute. Courtesy of Chris Johanson

### **Where are you quarantining?**

Portland, Oregon, at my house.

### **Describe your experience of the crisis in a few words or a sentence.**

Serenity prayer/illuminated existence.

### **What kind of work have you been making?**

I've been making paintings on recycled canvas with as little paint as possible, focusing on calmness while I slowly paint. I try to gently let my life be what it is. Make room while I paint to process uncomfortable thoughts like dying or whatever heavy thought I might need to be with.

### **To what degree would you say the work that you're making is “about” the crisis?**

The virus is in the painting, so is the political anxiety, but there is a lot of love in the painting too. Everything goes in the paintings.

**What have you been reading, watching, and/or listening to?**

I'm reading *The Missing of the Somme* by Geoff Dyer and *Object-Oriented Ontology* by Graham Harman. Watching the Criterion Collection's new streaming service. Listening to basically the whole catalog of Mississippi Records and a bunch of solo jazz-piano stuff.