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beavergalleries

Artists in lockdown series

At home with Melinda Schawel



Q. What is getting you through lockdown?

A. Well given this is my 6th lockdown, I am well-practiced in finding the silver lining in all of this and each time try to focus my energy on doing what I normally don't give myself permission to do - wake up when I feel like it, talk way too long with other dog owners or anyone else who wants a chat, hang out in my teenagers' bedrooms, contemplate the purpose of making art and life in general.

Q. What is your daily lockdown ritual?

A. I try to do some kind of exercise every day but haven't really stuck with a hard and fast routine and for that reason find myself procrastinating when it comes to studio time! For artists like myself with home studios, it's not

actually very different regardless of lockdown but I definitely feel less productive and more distracted with family around. Having said that, I am also more relaxed and contemplative so hoping this will seep into the work.

Q. Where are you finding inspiration at the moment?

A. Spring is in the air again and I'm feeling optimistic about the vaccine rollout and our growing acceptance as a country that this is the only way forward.

Q. Has the COVID pandemic/lockdown changed your work, and the way you work, in any way?

A. Yes, it feels like someone keeps pressing the pause button which inevitably affects workflow and motivation. But for an artist like me who channels a lot of emotion into my processes, it has actually forced me to slow down and make better decisions.