

Title: Autism / COVID
Author: Mandy Klein

Zine Printing Details: Accordion book, archival digital printing on cardstock
8 inches by 6 inches
2020-21

Texture: This large accordian-style zine opens up along one side. Its pages feel soft and smooth to the touch.

General description: This is a collage of photographs and digitally produced images of COVID-19. The background is black, and the images are colourful.

Title Page:

White smoke swirls upward on a black background with red block text that reads COVID and AUTISM inverted underneath.

Page 2:

A suburban landscape is visible through a green tinted windowpane with the window propped open to the left. Text reads: During our first covid lockdown, when I looked out the window every morning, I expected to see a mass, like poison, descending on us.

Page 3:

A cartoon person with long, gray hair clutches their head with both hands with a pained grimace. They are wearing a light blue shirt with only their torso visible as a gray tornado engulfs their lower half. The text reads: My anxiety is spiraling out of control.

Page 4:

A large, swirling red and grey vortex tosses around a small stick figure-like person. The word HELP is written inside a thought bubble above them. The text reads: My autism consultant has been on leave for months, so I have no support to help with my son's college or anything else. Sometimes, it feels like I am falling in a black hole.

Page 5:

The word CHANGE is written 3 times in different coloured block text: neon pink, orange and green. Each is written on its own line, positioned in the middle of the page. Cartoon-like drawings of two smiling people holding hands are situated below. A big red X covers them. The text reads: There have been too many changes and even though I don't do it often, I miss being able to meet up with friends whom I am comfortable with.

Page 6:

A photograph of flames and embers rise up to meet the text on this page. The text reads: I want this to be over!

Page 7:

A suburban landscape is visible through a green tinted windowpane with the window open to the left. Steel chains stretch across the image from corner to corner in an 'X' pattern with a padlock in the middle. The text below reads: second lockdown wasn't as bad as the first lockdown since not as much was closed and we were used to it from the first one.

Page 8:

A brown and white corgi lays comfortably on a black steel bench placed on top of green grass. The text reads: My younger dog (11) died during the second lockdown. The vet was really kind and euthanized him in the office and then brought him to my car for a while. That way I could still be with him as he died. It was a really hard time, made worse by Covid rules.

Page 9:

Two red syringes are angled downwards toward a square green thought bubble with a question mark in the middle. Below, a green person made up of simple geometric shapes appears. Text reads: Vaccines were starting to be given but our region was not given phase two for high risk yet.

Page 10:

A white stick figure-like person with lines depicts full-body shaking, knees buckling, and beads of sweat and/or tears being expelled. The text reads: A variant identified in the U.S. (California) (B.1.427); A variant identified in South Africa (B.1.351); A variant identified in the U.K. (B.1.1.7); A variant identified in Japan/Brazil (P.1). More extreme fear as Covid variants start spreading.

Page 11:

A person with short brown hair and glasses leans over to take a photo with another person with short brown hair sitting in a car. A yellow happy face emoji covers the face of the person on the left. This appears to be the author of the zine and their adult offspring. Text below the photo reads: We got our first shot in the beginning of April. A little less fear now. Have to wait until July for the next dose though.

Page 12:

A suburban landscape is visible through a green tinted windowpane with the window propped open to the left. Steel chains stretch across the image from corner to corner in

an 'X' pattern with a padlock in the middle. The text reads: Lockdown number 3. The most severe. Will it ever end? With vaccines rolling out, maybe? I'm not sure how hopeful to be.

Artist's Statement: This piece is a little snippet about how COVID has affected me. In making it, I wanted to show more visually how my anxiety is being affected and thus affecting me. I created this piece using the digital photo-editing software, Canva.

About the Artist: Mandy Klein is a multiply disabled autistic activist living in Newmarket, Ontario.