

Fig.114 Head-shot of a South American worker I met in during the coronavirus pandemic. If August Sander's photographs depicted a reality soon to be destroyed by wars, my work has anticipated the changes occurring during this pandemic. People were forced to home and a whole generation got disrupted in their socializing patterns.

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My portrayal of people echoes August Sander's "People of the 20th Century". As in his work, my work marks the end of an era in which the freedom to roam and photograph ceases. With the increasing political and social turmoil the people photographed might cease to exist. If before my work is a collection of Gogolian or Nietzschian encounters with people retaining different social positions, faiths and points of view, later these people become the victims of much turmoils affecting the otherwise spontaneous biodiversity life has to offer. Their characters and personalities are swiped by changes that at last confine them in their own private sphere and disable them to express themselves in the physical world. This process has certainly occurred to me. At the beginning of my project, when I was only 24 years old I felt free to express myself, free to embark on any spontaneous manifestation of my inner being. I was in love with the world and with my existence within it. I felt prolific and naturally I wanted to share this joy with others but only found many closed doors. I did eventually succeeded in showing my creativity but only after much cleansing which deprived me of my character. I think I was able to recover my character by rebelling and just building my sculpture park.