

Grace Verweij & Flo Wilson

FW:

What have you been up to in the last little while?

GV:

I've been in isolation for an additional two weeks on top of the official lockdown period - so I've been through quite a few 'phases of isolation'. It's been a bit strange closing the door on the idea of bringing artists over or putting on any shows for a while - but I've been doing a lot of 'keeping busy' in other ways.

The first release for my new label [LINK: <https://relatedarticles.bandcamp.com/album/salt-lick> // <https://www.facebook.com/related.articless> // <https://www.instagram.com/relatedarticles/>], which came out on Friday, was meant to be a physical release but I've had to put that side of things on hold for a while too. I decided to put it out just as a digi because right now I think people are finding a lot of comfort and solace in consuming music and art.

I've seen the music community supporting and uplifting each other so much which is really great. As for actually creating or making art - I've found myself totally incapable of doing that thus far. I lost my main source of income and am currently trying to transition into online-based work, so I've mainly been focusing on that, and keeping my mental and physical health in check.

I think this transition to 'trying to work in your personal space during a global crisis' has been a big challenge for a lot of people, myself included.

It's important to be attentive to how you're feeling/coping and be able to recognise and implement boundaries for yourself to separate work and personal life. I suck at this!

A lot of creatives have been really productive during this time and I love love love to see it, but if you're not one of those people, that's OK too.

Consider it a personal obligation to treat yourself with patience and kindness right now, because we're not just on holiday - a lot of us are trying to figure out how to rebuild our lives right now.

FW:

Yeah true, I feel like being patient and kind has become less of a novel way to carve out space for yourself as you navigate yourself as an artist in this hectic capitalist monolithic machine too...

GV:

That's entirely accurate.

I think the complexities and vastness of all the ways in which Covid-19 is impacting and will impact society is hard to wrap your head around.

Something that is painfully clear though is how much this pandemic has inflamed all the inequalities and fundamental problems that come hand-in-hand with a capitalist system.

Perhaps if this situation inspires enough collective rage we can do something about it.

Before I was so disillusioned that my primary goal was run away and go live off-grid somewhere - now I'm opening myself up to the idea that maybe something's gotta give??

I think makers of all kinds right now are faced with a unique situation whereby a lot of restrictions and limitations have been applied to their practice - collaborating looks different, performing looks different, field recording looks different, a lot of materials are inaccessible or unavailable.

Artists will find a way to adapt and respond to their situation and I love that.

I've seen a lot of people being incredibly innovative, and I've also spoken to a lot of people who are taking a break - both are equally as valid.

FW:

I'm really curious as to the ways in which people are finding themselves in a creative space - how have you found artists/ people are being innovative right now?

GV:

Perfect example would be the festival FILTH [LINK: <https://www.instagram.com/filthak/>] put on the weekend before last - I know you know because I saw you going off in the comments! That livestream was so utterly uplifting and inspired such a sense of community, 15 artists without geographical constraints, DJ's holding their laptops up to the camera in a meta display of friends twerking from home, cashapp, venmo and paypal links all pinned up. Truly making the best of a bad situation.

FW:

The FILTH festival was so incredible eh... I think that was the first thing I saw from the arts community that made me feel like 'okay, maybe we are gonna pull through this together!'. Especially being able to rally the artists from all over the world.

GV:

Exactly.

FW:

Have you any thoughts for the future?

GV:

No bail-outs for high-polluting industries and corporations, leave them in the mud. Oh, and rent strike! xo