

# This is the final boarding call...

ROSHNI SHAMIM

It baffles me how this quarantine period is making people go crazy. I, personally, have been having a ball; just this past week, I was out travelling across the land. I am very excited to tell you as well as welcome you, dear readers, to my home travelogue.

Being an impulsive traveller, my flights are always last minute. This works out well most times, save for the occasional hoarding seen when boarding for the Airbus to Bathroom Town. Quite honestly, this becomes most stressful when traveling with my parents; they prefer to be the first ones there and the last ones to leave. While waiting for my flight, I also find lounges to be the best spot to relax. I highly recommend choosing the Bedroom Lounge, as they provide the comfiest facilities and a wide array of activities to choose from such as sleeping, procrastinating and essentially getting nothing done.



As a frequent flyer, my layover destination is usually the same. From a few minutes to even six or more hours at Living Room Luxury, the transit time simply flies by. If you are ever travelling by the same transit, make sure to enjoy their entertainment facilities, along with some quick snacking food stops.

While we are discussing transit activities, I would also encourage my readers to ex-

plore the duty free section. At Living Room Luxury, there is a great duty free section on the south-east wing, known as Balcony Balm. Although almost everything you see within sight from Balcony Balm is restricted for transit passengers right now, it is still a great experience to just take in the delightful views — empty roads, the quiet breeze, and all that lush greenery emits a definite 5-star

rating from me.

For my final review, I would like to highlight a wild adventure in the West. While I travel most to Kitchenia, my spontaneity decided to venture a little further. Unexpectedly, I ended up in The Parentica Lands. This was a mixed experience, as initially, the citizens were extremely friendly upon arrival. However, the longer I stayed, the more intrusive their conversations became. Suddenly, they were now a lot more interested to know what my plans were for the future, what are my current goals, why am I so useless, etc.

Although I find it healthy to occasionally do some extreme activities, my trip to The Parentica Lands was definitely a one-time trip only. The food gets a definite 5-star rating though, if you are a fan of fresh fruits, hot tea and sumptuous home food, that is.

For my next trip, I am hoping to travel to Roofstan, widely known for its scenic beauty. For now, I will be making sure to take some rest and get over my current jet lag.

# Making art in times of a pandemic

ANTARA LABIBA NIKITA

Human life entails some degree of misfortune. At the core of misfortune lies uncertainty, which gives rise to an acute sense of powerlessness among people. If anything, the Covid-19 pandemic has made this fact very intuitive. In such trying times, art can be, and often is, used as a tool to fight this uncertainty.

Art, no matter what, cannot replace the need for proper healthcare, financial stability, or effective policymaking. In the same vein, engaging in creative projects requires a base level of privilege, which not all people have during a pandemic. Lastly, everyone copes with trauma differently, which means art will not be of utility to all. However, to the people who respond well to art, it can be an effective tool in the face of adversity. At the very least, it can provide the artist with some headspace. The value of art truly shines when it is used to craft new and empowering narratives during tough times.

Looking back at history, one will find music detailing tragedy and victory, and paintings depicting trauma and hope. Both anecdotal evidence and a growing body of research support the positive impacts creating art can have. And people are catching on. While scrolling through social



ILLUSTRATION: NOOR US SAFA ANIK

media, one will find more than the usual number of sketches, comedy skits, and poetry verses tucked between the regular news and awareness posts. At the same time, online spaces dedicated to showcasing user-submitted art are now brimming with entries. Through this collective art creation, people are finding comfort and forging communities.

This surge in art posts on social media is an indication of the newfound value placed on creating art. Even if a person chooses not to showcase their artwork online, it does not take away from the value the art-making process can bring to the person. The time and energy that could have been spent on mindlessly consuming content, is now spent on engaging in something creative and fulfilling. In doing so, the artist reclaims whatever degree of agency they have, which allows them to interpret the circumstances in their own way.

“Having the liberty to express my emotions through different mediums of my art is my only form of closure in this state of uncertain solitude,” says Venessa Kaiser, an architect and artist who has found solace in her creative endeavours. Even if the uncertainty of the times do not diminish in any way, the sense of powerlessness in people does fade. That is a reason compelling enough to make time for creativity, especially now.

In the best case scenario, a person can make sense of their losses and create empowering narratives for themselves. In the worst, such artistic endeavours serve as distractions only. However, in times of a pandemic, being able to take one’s mind off trauma is a meaningful enough end, too.



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