

Superpresent

A black and white photograph showing a person in a full-body protective suit and mask, possibly a biohazard suit, standing in a fenced-in area. The person is leaning forward, interacting with a small, dark-colored dog. The background features a large, dark, rectangular structure, possibly a piece of equipment or a building, and a chain-link fence. The overall scene suggests a controlled environment, possibly a laboratory or a field site for research or testing.

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Bubble Boy



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Dreamboy Magazine



Back Cover Art by Feixue Mei
Witch Trial in the 21st Century

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WHAT IS THE NEW REALITY?

The global pandemic has forced everyone to come to grips with a reality that most of us have never imagined. Across the planet, our daily lives have been disrupted. Many of us have been isolated from friends and family and are no longer able to engage in our old habits.

Perhaps one view of this forced change in our daily reality is that many people in the world see that we are in this together. A reality of the pandemic is that it affects everyone. Isn't that ultimately hopeful?

Yet millions globally have died, the wealthy have experienced a whopping financial boon, while the working class and poor have experienced greater hardship and economic dislocation. Schools are political hotbeds, as are masks. People are dying alone, suicides are up, food deserts are even more barren. It will be decades before the catalogue of change is complete. While no one can yet identify all of the results of a pandemic year, it seems that people have become more aware of the possibilities for other realities. While the reality of global racial injustice was becoming more well-known before the pandemic descended, what has happened since, when people cannot publicly and personally express themselves? Radical changes in weather patterns (fires, freezes, hurricanes, floods) violently upend communities, lives, and markets. What of the growing recognition of the systems ensuring poorer countries and communities remain so? What of the reality that some political leaders deny the existence of any of these problems, blithely asserting they are fake and we should ignore them? Economics, mental health, social justice, questions about truth, personal relations, fashion, even art and literature, have been changed. Is Yeats right, after a world is "transformed utterly," a "terrible beauty" is born?

We asked that writers and artists submit works that in some way represent their perceptions of their current reality, the reality they would like to see, the reality they might escape to (or from), or new realities that the future might bring. We are frankly amazed at the breadth and quality of the work received. Artists and writers from 29 countries submitted works and 43 were selected for publication. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who let us consider their work. The selected pieces admirably demonstrate that the New Reality is coming and that thoughtful minds are already embracing it.

-The Editors



Mark Yale Harris
Crush