

# COVID Creativity

From poetry to painting to photography, locals share how they have been inspired during the pandemic.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EUGENIE SPIRITO

Spirito's stone carving, *Angelus*: a guardian angel-like presence is inspired by the leadership of Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti

BY KAMALA KIRK

During this time of isolation and crisis, art has become an important outlet for creativity and emotional well-being. Whether it's a professional artist—or someone who just found their “inner” one—people have been inspired to create during COVID-19.

*Eugenie Spirito*

## NO STONE UNTURNED

The pandemic changed Eugenie Spirito's creative process. The longtime Malibu resident, who is a professional sculptor and practices traditional Shiatsu massage, found herself with extra time when she couldn't see her clients, so she carved a series of stone sculptures.

Initially, Spirito stayed home and avoided going anywhere. Then, she noticed the air was getting cleaner, PCH was quieter.

“The new quiet helped me hear my thoughts and creative impulses,” Spirito shared. “On a personal level, this pandemic has been scary, not knowing what will be left of our former lives. Often, it feels like nothing will ever be the same. Even so, this extended ‘quiet time’ has been a gift to me and I'm hoping ... it will give us a chance to rebuild and restructure things in a more just and loving way for everyone.”

With determination to “share what feelings were bubbling over,” she began to carve a series of new works.

Spirito's stone carvings includes ‘*Angelus*,’ a guardian angel-like presence inspired by the leadership of Governor Newsom and Mayor Garcetti; ‘*Reclining Woman*,’ serves as her physical reminder to relax and stay peaceful even when things seem uncertain; ‘*Heart-Buddha*,’ is a manifestation of the need to stay connected to the heart, to the creative center, to the all; and ‘*Peaches*,’ is a playful piece that embodies the need to be joyful and fun-loving.

Currently, Spirito is working on her latest piece, ‘*Rose Mandala*,’ a stone mandala to help focus the need to find

