

# Hocus Focus by Kathleen Kastles

## Virtual Opening - April 18, 2020

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[www.kathleenkastles.com](http://www.kathleenkastles.com)

### Artwork on Display

Exhaustion, 2017  
The LOOK, 2016  
Jaipur Street Scene, 2019  
Magandang Binibini, 2016  
Trance, 2016  
Agnes, 2016  
Eyeglasses, 2016  
Lovers, 2017  
Metro Madonna, 2016  
3 1/2 Persone, 2019  
Genial, 2016  
Ephiphany, 2016  
Yellow Hat, 2017  
Trotter, 2019  
S/HE, 2016

## Q+A with Kathleen Kastles

### What artists influence you?

Currently I am inspired by Joaquin Sorolla, Pierre Bonnard, and Chuck Close.

### What is your creative space like? Can you show us around?

My studio is always utter chaos. I ascribe to Nietzsche's assertion that one needs chaos to give birth to a dancing star. ... My studio is truly a working space ... I always have several projects in various stages of completion in my studio, and never feel as if I want to waste time making it neat to impress anyone. It is organized chaos, however, and I am able to put my finger on anything I need within minutes... I sew with a couple of 12 yr old Pfaff Creative 3 machines. Our salt air humidity is rough on sewing machines, so when one is being serviced, I use the other. I also have two 50 year old Pfaff 1222E's, with a lot of mileage on them. I keep them both for nostalgia and to use on the rare occasions when both of the other machines are in the shop. The walls between the four sliding glass doors in my studio have several built in wardrobes in which I keep fabrics, stretcher bars, large sketch pads, and more art supplies. My cutting table has wheels and folds up when not being used.... I keep thread, ink, paint and collage items in the drawers of several rolling tambours that tuck beneath my sewing table.

### How are you staying busy during social distancing? Can you recommend any projects to our opening's virtual guests?

I am an introvert and my happy place has always been my studio. I miss being out on the ocean outrigger canoe paddling with my friends, but as an older person I'm doing all I can to avoid contracting this virus, so my husband and I stay in our home. I do not feel cooped up. I generally have my iPod on, listening to recorded books. These books take me far from my immediate surroundings into worlds and lives I'll never experience, entertaining me and occupying my left brain while my right brain makes art. For over a year now I have been studying Spanish, and although our Conversational Spanish group isn't meeting in person, we are thinking about meeting on Zoom. Another group I belong to meets weekly on Zoom. It's a great way to keep in touch. I don't do social media, but cherish my email correspondence with our far-flung family and friends. Our wonderful local friends and neighbors make sure we don't need to get out—they call to see if we need anything when they're out shopping. I've been busy making face masks ever since lockdown. Because that project feels so worthy and necessary, I haven't felt like quitting, and probably won't until I run out of fabric. I had a couple of 100% cotton king sized sheets that I've been cutting into 15" strips and hemming, then cutting into 9" sections. Those are the main parts of the face masks, which have pockets for filters and lycra/spandex ties.