

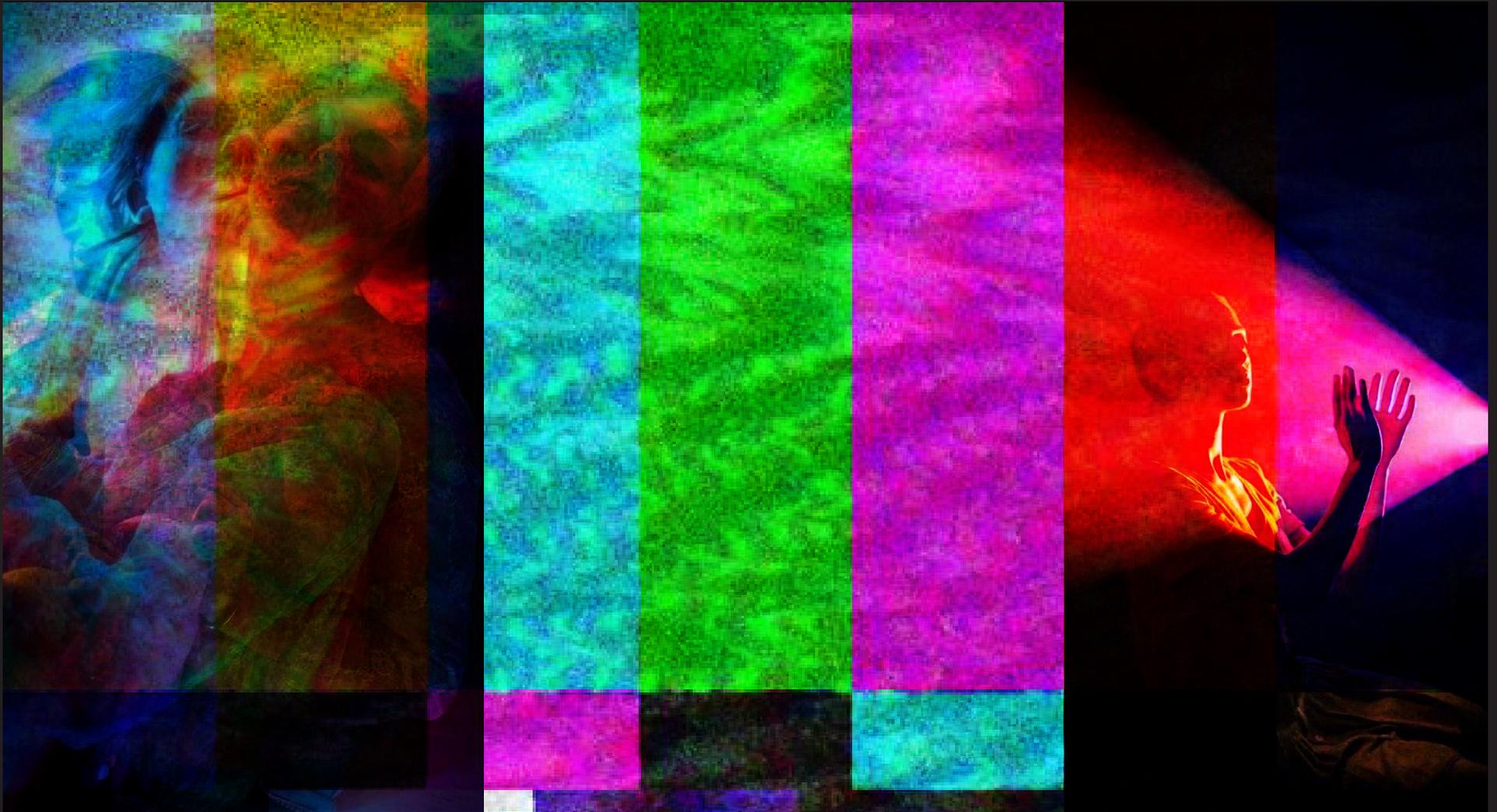
XI ZHAO



Negotiation begins with communication. We must listen to understand, not to respond.

Two separate, but equal pools of powder blue bares down on each party of the negotiation. The meeting gets heated and the atmosphere around each party becomes increasingly tense. The negotiations did not work out, leading the world around them to chaos - nothing seems right anymore. As each side reaches the pinnacle of their individual fallout, they take a moment to breathe putting a hold to the atmosphere around them. Realizing the consequences of not working together, they move back to the origin of their negotiation. They are finally able to reach a compromise and the two pools of light that surround each negotiator becomes one.

ASHLEY MCQUEEN



Humanity's dependence on technology has led to an overwhelming sense of an artificial world. Static covers the stage as if we are transported into a television set. Emerging from the black and grey screen are figures accented by a harsh powder blue that picks them out of the noise that surrounds them. The movement of the figures is overlaid with the multicolor flicker of a broken screen. The sensory overload of noise and colorful light overwhelms the stage. The difference between the live figures and the recorded become indistinguishable.

MONICA NEWMAN



COVID-19 has created a new normal that revolves around isolation. Though some refused to follow this new standard of normal, others have learned to adapt. Showing the suffocating feeling of masks, couples move around doing their every day activities in the new, clouded world that surrounds them. They all cross paths, but it isn't until when they all meet that they realize they are all in this together. As one, they surrender to a soft golden atmosphere of this new outlook and embrace that the fate of life is in God's hands.

“Psalm”

Kurt Douglas



Lamed Vav Tzadikim, “36 Righteous Ones”.

According to the Jewish tradition, all the sorrows of the world rest within thirty-six Just Men. These 36 are holy people who are hidden among mankind. It is believed that if even one of them were missing, the sufferings of the world would poison the souls of all, and mankind would perish. It is also believed that the role of the 36 Men are to justify mankind in the eyes of God.

“MERCHANTS OF CALAIS”

MICHAEL UTOFF



Starvation, surrender, self sacrifice.

The six stand awaiting execution in the cold grey rain on a muddy street. It's not as heroic as it seems. The six were chosen for execution against their will and the agony over the decision surrounds them. The only warmth of light comes from the slim hope that their fate isn't completely sealed.

MAGGI DUEKER



It's dusk as the two meet, grounded in the sharp sunlight and surrounded by the dappled shadows of the trees. They reminisce of happy memories which dance in the background, moving in and out of golden peach warmth and the occasional purple hue that lines the horizon. As the memories fade, the two are left alone in the intimate honey rays as the fondness between them grows. New memories are made and dance around them as their warmth and happiness radiates into the world that surrounds them.