

HAROLD SHAPIRO, 2019 AWARDEE

Photographic Project “Luminous Instruments”

“Luminous Instruments”, the project funded by the Bitsie Grant, featuring black and white photographs of musical instruments that evoke music and movement, was scheduled for exhibition in March, 2020.

In Harold’s words:

“The body of work was created, printed, and framed. The exhibit was mounted. The opening lecture at Creative Arts Workshop (CAW) was scheduled and over 150 people planned to attend. Then Covid forced CAW to shut down. The lectures eventually took place via Zoom. The exhibit was visible from Audubon Street for nearly six months, then moved to Yale Health for nearly a year.

The funds from this grant enabled me to achieve what I had set out to do. When I was working on these photographs, I did in fact experience the joy and exuberance that I had as a child learning about lighting. It was playful and invigorating and reminded me why I love being an artist.

My most important lesson as an artist was that I was capable of pivoting. Ultimately, I channeled my artistic energy into a new project. Since March 16th of 2020, I have been posting on social media every day. The name of my project is **Crisis Creativity**.

With my current work, I have let my imagination go free. I put no restraints on what interests me and have experimented in many styles.

Also, during the Covid era, as a true amateur, I have studied Stoic Philosophy, African American Spirituals, Art History, Linguistics, Klezmer Music and Astronomy. These topics all find a place in my posts.

When we were on strict lockdown, I started playing concerts for people on Zoom or Facetime. I did over 300 concerts for people all around the world, in my attempt to build community during the pandemic. These concerts were called Flute-O-Grams.”

<https://www.haroldshapirophotography.com>