

ROUTINE INTERVENTION

This extensive pictorial work in the form of a banner is the result of the *Corona - The Creative Potential of the Crisis* workshop held on November 6 and 7, 2021. Students from various departments met at Marsilius-Kolleg, the Center for Advanced Studies at Heidelberg University. In collaboration with a team of artists led by Prof. Annika Guse, they explored aspects of the Corona pandemic that have positively impacted them and their environments.

The process of creating this work utilized the *Thinking Hands* (TH) principle – a technique based on group discussion of a topic, followed by the drawing of ideas, and then the connection of the images, with the ultimate goal of gaining a comprehensive perspective of the topic at hand. The process is facilitated and supported by professional artists and designers to enhance the visualization process and to aid in the production of an accessible, visual narrative.

TH was developed by Prof. Annika Guse, a biologist, and Dr. Stephanie Guse, an artist, and has been used with researchers and students at Heidelberg University to communicate complex research topics since 2014. TH will also be the basis of the joint research project [¡vamos, simbiosis!](#) which aims to contribute to redefining the connection between humans and the sea in times of climate change, and to develop ideas for a sustainable lifestyle through interdisciplinary approaches.

This work, titled ROUTINE INTERVENTION, demonstrates how a topic – in this case, the positive impacts of the Corona pandemic – can be collaboratively discussed and visually organized to create shared focal points. The title refers to the fact that Corona interfered with our routines and how extensive interventions caused us to rethink various aspects of life.

Thematically, three aspects have emerged:

- (1) Nature as a safe, inspiring, and connecting place.
- (2) The changes in personal self-image and lifestyle.
- (3) The importance of social connections and society.

The banner illustrates these three themes as well as the visualization of the title and is intended to be read from left to right. The upper area (lines 1-5) reveals how the participants generally perceived the pandemic, namely as an allegorical meteorite impact to the head. Space had to be created in the mind first so that we could restructure thought processes to fit this drastic phenomenon into our worldview.

The next section (lines 6-11) deals with nature, which appeared to many as a place of refuge and freedom from the lockdown. Nature also offered the opportunity to be in the company of others, which was a pressing need at the time as social contact was severely limited. A culture of returning to nature developed where people were encouraged to nurture the healing, meditative, and fulfilling relationship that unites man and nature. Depicted in this theme is how humans and nature are reuniting, which has the potential to foster a movement where people share and communicate this new approach by including others.

In the following section (lines 11-17) we reflect on how the individual develops as a result of being thrown back on oneself in the lockdown. Looking inward, reflection and meditation lead to the recognition of new or dormant interests that are now being pursued. As a result, many people are able to reinvent themselves. They now devote themselves to personal interests, sports, and philosophy, while old routines come under scrutiny and personal baggage is cast off. In this section, butterflies fluttering around symbolize the search for the new self. They stream from a glass, an everyday object, and swarm out to find opportunities awaiting.

In the lower section (lines 17-20), the ship "MS Lonely" represents society, as people navigating lockdown were simultaneously together and alone: clapping together from

separate balconies for nursing and medical staff. All are slightly separated when wearing face masks whilst gathering. Digitization, represented by pixels, is the remaining unifying element of communication as society relies on virtual communication more than ever before. The importance of science to society comes into focus and is redefined.

The community work ROUTINE INTERVENTION impressively demonstrates how many positive aspects exist or are generated during an otherwise catastrophic situation. It reveals that the most important changes take place within the mind, and that, through adaptation, something new may emerge that can develop into a future routine and become a guide for one's own life.

The following students participated in the work: Lea Adams, Julie Audebert, Leonie Bechthold, Jana Berlanda, Defne Cobanoglu, Johanna Daas, Dr. Tanja Granzow, Alida Gupta, Kaspar Haas, Christopher Hub, Yongxi Lu, Marlene E. Metz, Valentina Neukel, Jana Pickartz, Diba Rafii, Alexandra Reimers, Nina Stoll, Mohammad Taha, Ronja Völk, Elisa Wegereich, Jule Zimmermann.

The workshop was led by: Prof. Dr. Annika Guse (Biology), Heidelberg University; Dr. Stephanie Guse (Art), Vienna; Katrin Funcke (Illustration), Berlin; Kristina Heldmann, (Illustration), Berlin and Stefan Michaelsen (Communication Design), Essen. Film- and photo documentation: Jonathan Schmidt and Linda Manhart.

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