

Book #3 *Metropolitan Stories* by Chistine Coulson

All the stories make up one story; a novel. The connections mixed with art history and glimpses inside the ongoings of an art museum all intertwine into a magical, almost untouchable, storyline. Photographing my response to this book shed a new light on how the quarantine and pandemic are currently affecting me.

In my location the art and natural history museums opened just as I was ready to photograph this project. Timed entry, face mask requirement, social distance from others (similarly like physical distance from the artworks)... all these rules created a slightly more strict experience than usual. In the surrounding park outdoors, the large sculptured fountains and pools of water were all drained, exposing their slate colored concrete as hot white in the blazing sun attracting nobody to come and sit in the provided benches to enjoy the elements.

My location as a metropolis? Not so much. Most of the people are indoors sitting in frantic anticipation of once again enjoying the comforts of socializing. But others in the same location are whimsically out and about, somehow finding others just like them with no rules, no regulations, no regard. It's easy to be sucked in, to let one's guard down like the Chair or Adam. Sitting inside waiting for the coast to clear can easily make one a little paranoid. And that's when it is better to find one's sense of overwhelming beauty and to live in the moment.