

An Exploration of

Community

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Community by Proximity

When displaced, cooped up and isolated, the humans associated with community are replaced by objects. Those that are close, everyday, often used will insert themselves into one's identity and function in the same manner as a human community. Daily, I am surrounded by my desk and art supplies, tea kettles and classic rock covers floating down from my neighbor's window. These elements come together to form my jumbled group, my close things.



Community by **Solidarity**

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Every night at 7:00 pm, the city of New York makes noise to recognize the medical workers of the city. Groups have different styles of this noise-making, and it is this trend that has built my closest community. It began with the man across the street clapping on his balcony, the next day a few more, and within a week the whole neighborhood was hanging out their windows and standing on fire escapes not only to support medical workers but also to have a connection with those around them. Eventually, we all moved on to banging pots and pans, and the newest trend is to carry out musical instruments and make as much noise as possible. Through this tradition, our small group has banded together to now wave at each other when standing outside to smoke, to shout greetings across the street, and serenade each other with flute, guitar, or steel drum performances from fire escapes. Though I don't know their names, ages, or professions, our connection formed through standing in solidarity against the oppression of Corona, refusing to pack up and leave our home has formed a bond stronger than any other at the moment.

