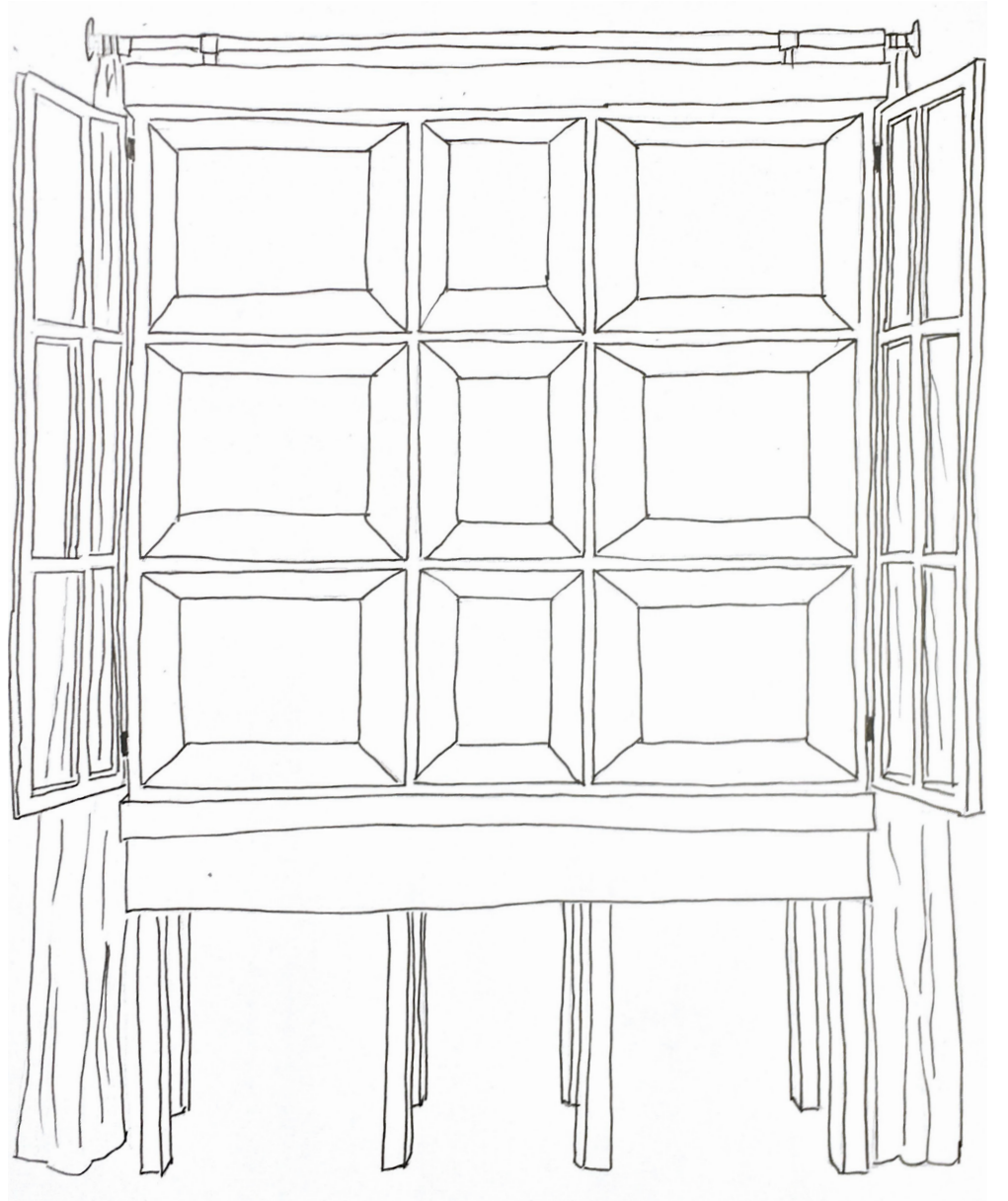


KATHARINA WOLF + MERET HEEB

Staycation



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Imprint

Paintings

David Teniers the Younger - The Alchemist

Dirck Hals - Gentlemen Smoking and Playing Backgammon in an Interior

Hendrik Martenszoon Sorgh - Lute Player

Jan Steen - The Dancing Couple

Johannes Vermeer - The Astronomer

Johannes Vermeer - Woman with a Pearl Necklace

Johannes Vermeer - The Milkmaid

Pieter de Hooch - A Mother's Duty

Rembrandt van Rijn - The Parable of the Rich Fool

Pictures

Katharina Wolf and Meret Heeb

Studio Caruso

FS 20

Staycation

The current situation has drastically changed our life. Paralysed by the global coronavirus pandemic we have to follow strict rules our governments impose on us. In this situation the worth of our home has changed. Home has been our most private place but is now, due to the absence of communal places, also public space. It is our inside and our outside. Home is the place, where we spend productive and unproductive time. We all have to adapt our home to this new situation. Within manifold rules everyone tries to create his or her own paradise. And thanks to zoom meetings we also get unprecedented insights in private places of others.

The Dutch Golden Age is the heyday of economy and culture in the Netherlands of the 17th century. People enjoyed great liberty. Art became available for everybody and a status symbol, so did furniture. For the first time in the history of art, aspects of everyday life were depicted, and ordinary people were portrayed which were engaged in activities of common life.

Current self-isolation restricts many of our well appreciated liberties. It forces us to stay at home. How do we adapt to this situation? Can the basic needs of a human being still be covered? According to Manfred Naef subsistence, protection, affection, understanding, participation, identity, idleness, creation and freedom are of relevance for all of us. Can they be satisfied to stay in good mental and physical health?

With this work we try to shed new light on old stories of the Dutch genre paintings. Each story represents one of the abovementioned basic needs of us, representing ways, people of today still can satisfy their needs by adapting their private space.



The need of Subsistence

Subsistence refers to the main physical requirements for human survival. This need is crucial to all of us. To constantly cover all these needs keeps us busy most of the time. Only if these basic levels of needs are satisfied and we reach an equilibrium and stable conditions human beings can progress and reach higher levels. It includes the needs for water, food, shelter, health, work, financial security but also homeostasis.

„We have to improvise now.“





The need of Protection

Protection goes along with security. Only if we consider our livelihood to be safe, we can dedicate our attention to something else. It does not only have to be financial security or the security to have adequate insurance. We also feel the need for care and solidarity. In order to make sure that each individual person experiences protection, rules and laws are imposed. Within these rules, one can act, help and cooperate. But the need of protection for an individual might result in conflicts of interest with others. So is the question of protection also a question of worth?

„Everyone is handling it differently.“

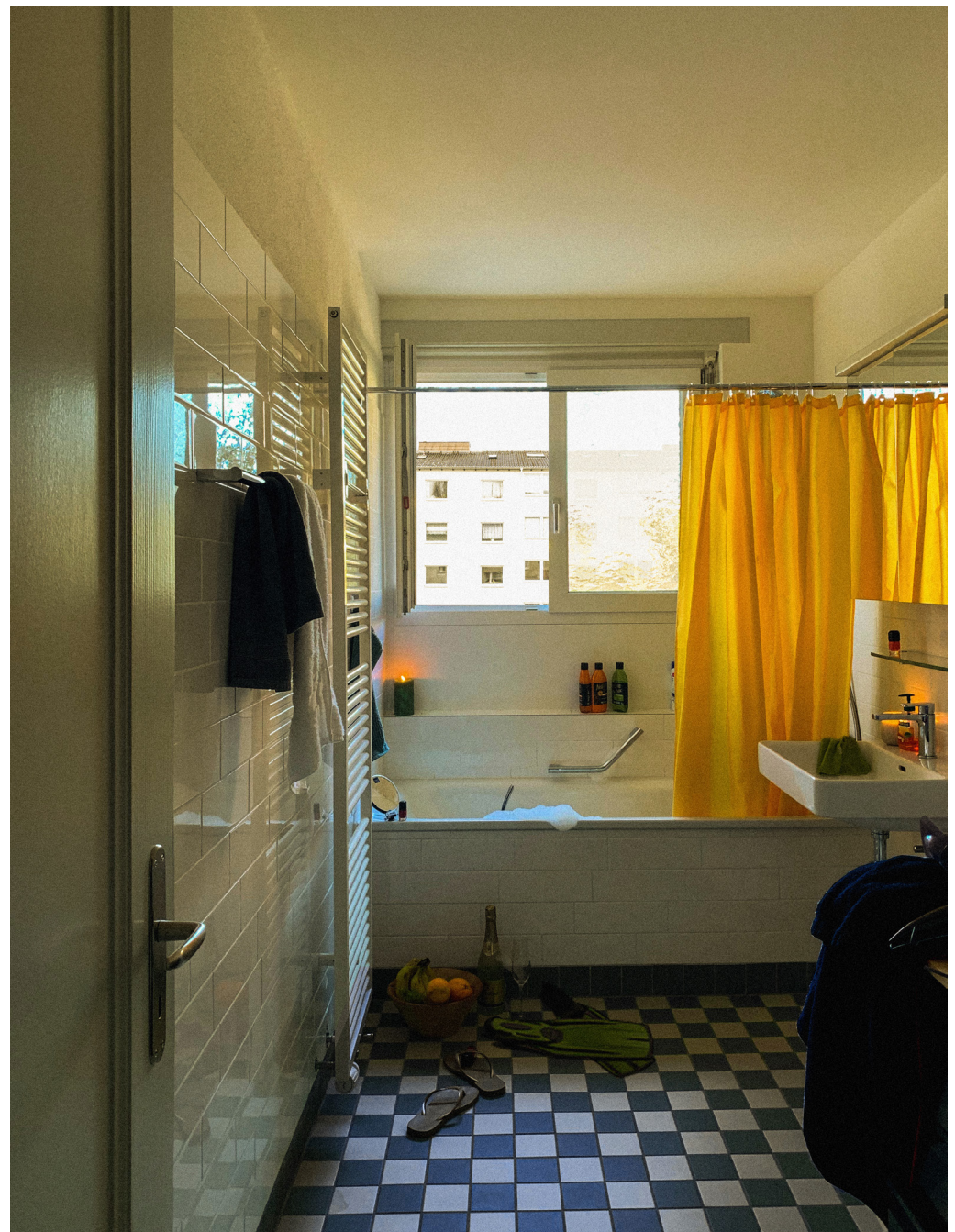




The need of Affection

Affection means experiencing self-esteem, solidarity, respect or tolerance by family, friends and partners. For human being it is important to express emotions and share personal problems to stay at mental health. It is about being understood and share a space of togetherness. But how is it possible to encounter affection in times of isolation?

„I feel restless, tired, insecure and powerless.“

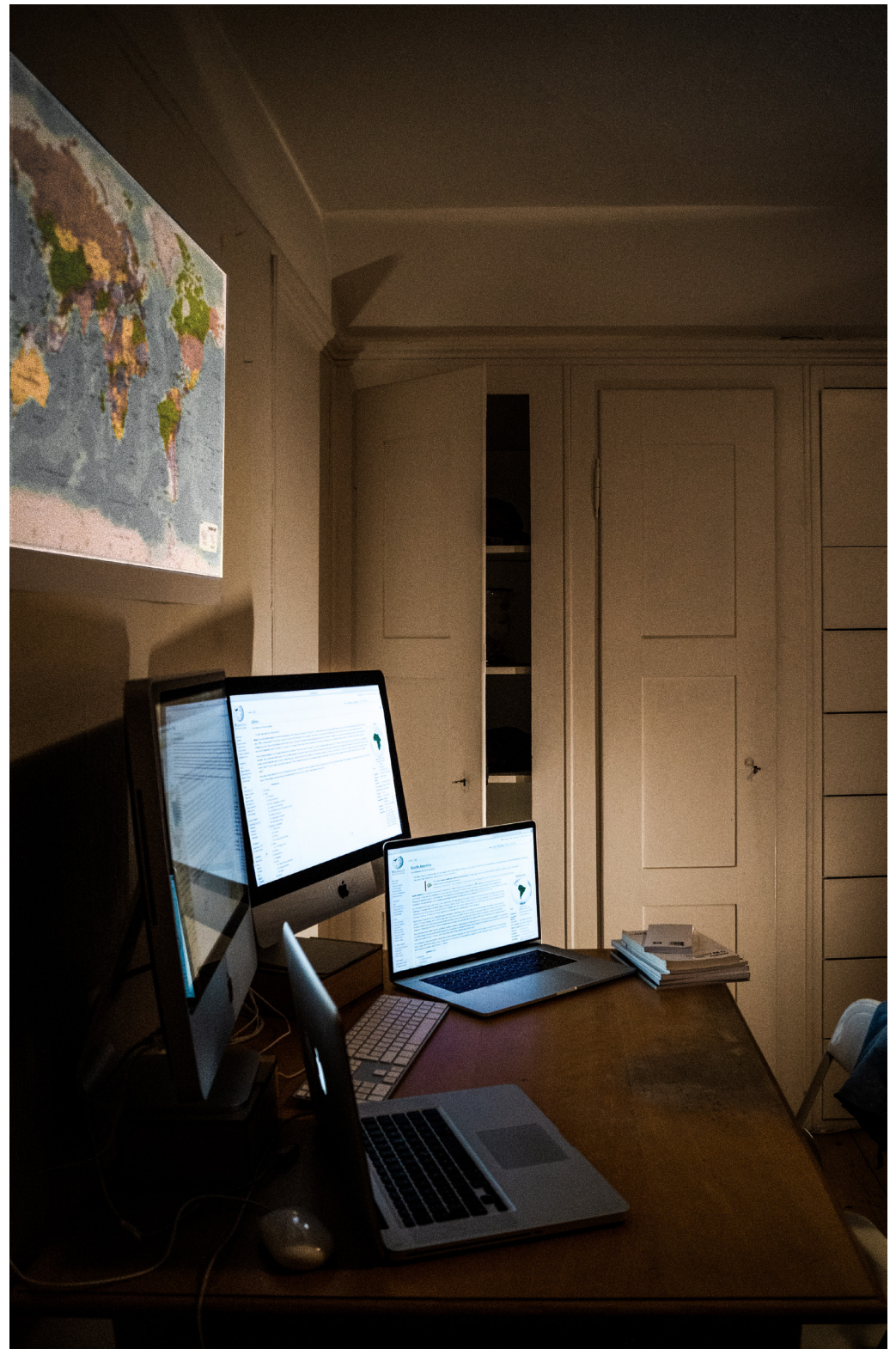




The need of Understanding

Understanding is an important psychological process in order to act and react rational in our environment. To analyze and to understand are basic actions in order to react respectfully and intelligent to unforeseen situations. It may help to experiment with curiosity in a new field of interest and to think outside the box. But it is not all about understanding, it is also about being understood, in order to interact with others.

„What is really true?“





The need of Participation

Broadly said, participation is the act of getting involved in processes and express ones opinion on certain issues. It means to take the responsibility, to interact with people and cooperate within certain communities such as ones family or in a working environment. Participation involves a lot of personal interactions. How is participation possible when public space is reduced to a minimum and we have to fulfill our needs locked up in our apartment? Can this lack of mobility fully be covered by digitalization?



„It burdens our social structure.“



The need of Idleness

Idleness is the time spent according to your own wish. The term implies carelessness and ease. It includes daydreaming but also playing and remembering old times. Idleness can be seen as our most unproductive time, moments in which we escape to our fantasies and relax and enjoy privacy and intimacy.

„We have now the time to question our structures and change something.“





The need of Creation

Creativity which leads to creation is a skill of human to build something new, to invent valuable new tools and form new things from our imagination. It can be an intangible or physical object. Creative moments can best be experienced when we can freely dispose over time. On the other hand, the pressure to be creative, to create something, can inhibit the process. In a way one can argue that creativity means being productive in an unproductive time.



„Duty became pleasure.“



The need of Identity

Generally speaking, identity is the sum of all the peculiarities of an individual. Sharing some specific attributes can include oneself to a group or it can also exclude one from another group. Creating an own identity is also defining ones place in the society. Thereby, we are often influenced by general trends and norms of the public. How will our identity change if these influences decrease and we do no longer have to share the idea of our peer group. Will this trigger a more self-determined development?

„It feels like undressing my usual society-compliant uniform.“





The need of Freedom

Freedom is the autonomy of a subject to act independently. Freedom is to take decisions free from any constraints. There are numerous variations of freedom. For example, political freedom, freedom of will, free speech or freedom of action to name a few. Does unrestricted freedom exist at all or is freedom always restricted in sets of rules? One can argue that the freedom of individuals ends where it affects the rights of freedom of another person.



„The relation to my family has never been so intense.“

Having taken a look at the nine basic needs of humans, we found sets of variations how to satisfy them. But never the less the longed for remains the same.

We used to live in environments where it was assumed that people have more than just one room to fulfill all their needs. That is how everything surrounding us is designed.

But currently we find ourselves in the situation where many of our basic needs are restricted and the ways we have to satisfy our needs during the pandemic covid virus outbreak have to be adapted.

The interesting question now is to what extent is it possible to design a room where all nine needs can be satisfied and how would such a room look like?

