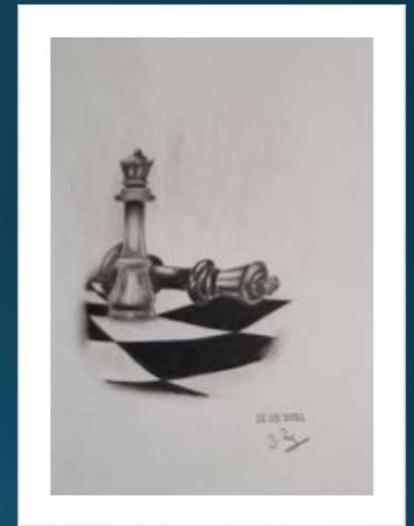


My Future Perspective With Covid-19

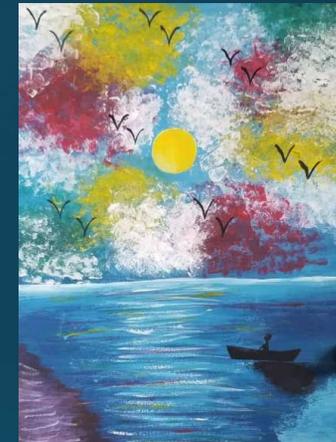
Hello!!

I am Elene Sulkhaniashvili, 15 years old, from Georgia. Our country, as well as the world, has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and has left its biggest mark on our daily lives. This virus has been raging for almost a year and a half. At first there was fear and despair, complete uncertainty of the future, there seemed to be no way out, then quarantine, restrictions, stabilization of the situation, second wave, restrictions and quarantine again, hopelessness again, then stability, third and the strongest wave and apparently this virus will not leave us soon. Though there is hope, expectation that life will return to normal, because we already know this virus, we have vaccines, we have experience, we know how to act.

The pandemic affected my family as well, we were locked up at home for months. Schools were closed and we switched to distance learning. I decided not to lose time and continued my studies with greater diligence. I set a goal to develop my skills. As it is said when one door closes, another opens and for me this door opened in the direction of art. I started painting, which I have always loved. I used all the resources I had to paint even better. My paintings deserved more and more approval among my family and friends. It was during the pandemic that I sold my first painting (painting of the chess figures on the right) abroad, which convinced me, that I could create works that is loved not only by family members and people who are not indifferent to me, but also by people who are completely foreign, living in faraway places. I think, I have found myself and my future profession.

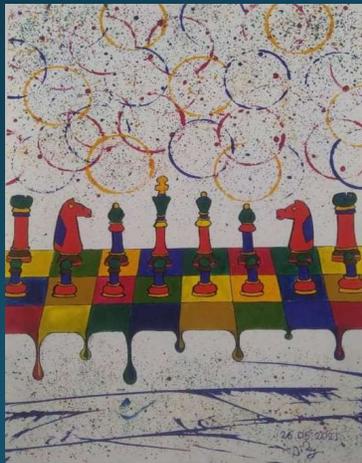


In addition, I graduated the class with the best results and despite the distance learning I did not miss the program. I decided not to stop there and to find some new areas of interest. My inspiration came from the Netflix TV series “Queen’s Gambit”, which tells the story of the talented young female chess player (by the way, she is said to be the prototype of the greatest Georgian female chess player Nona Gaprindashvili). I did not even know how to play chess before watching the movie. I learned the moves, downloaded the textbooks and started learning. As a result, in just four months, I gained rank and continue to develop my skills. I presume I will have great and enjoyable way in this field, full of victories.



While personally I have managed to use the current situation to my advantage, of course the pandemic has pushed the world back in many directions, halting progress and developing of many areas. It is also clear that the next few years of life we will not be able to return to the usual rhythm and we need to completely change much of social relations. However, during this time, we have accumulated quite a lot of knowledge and experience that we need to use.





Most importantly, there are vaccines that protect and reduce the risk of infection. Now the main goal is to conduct right and targeted campaign and convince more and more people to get vaccinated (only 12% of the adult population is vaccinated at this moment in Georgia) and break the chain of infection. If the government will let children to get vaccination, I will also get vaccinated, because I believe (unlike a huge part of Georgian population) that this is the only way out from this situation. Until then, as we know, social distancing, personal hygiene and wearing facemasks are the most effective means. We will have to wait until we can hug each other again, attend concerts, football or other large events, play chess with a real and not a virtual opponent, sit in the same classroom and not be afraid of each other.

I hope we defeat the virus very soon and end the pandemic, though we must not waste time. We need to see a new opportunity, every new door and window that is open, and at the end of the pandemic we meet stronger, more developed, more joyful and motivated than we were before.

Sincerely,
Elene Sulkhaniashvili