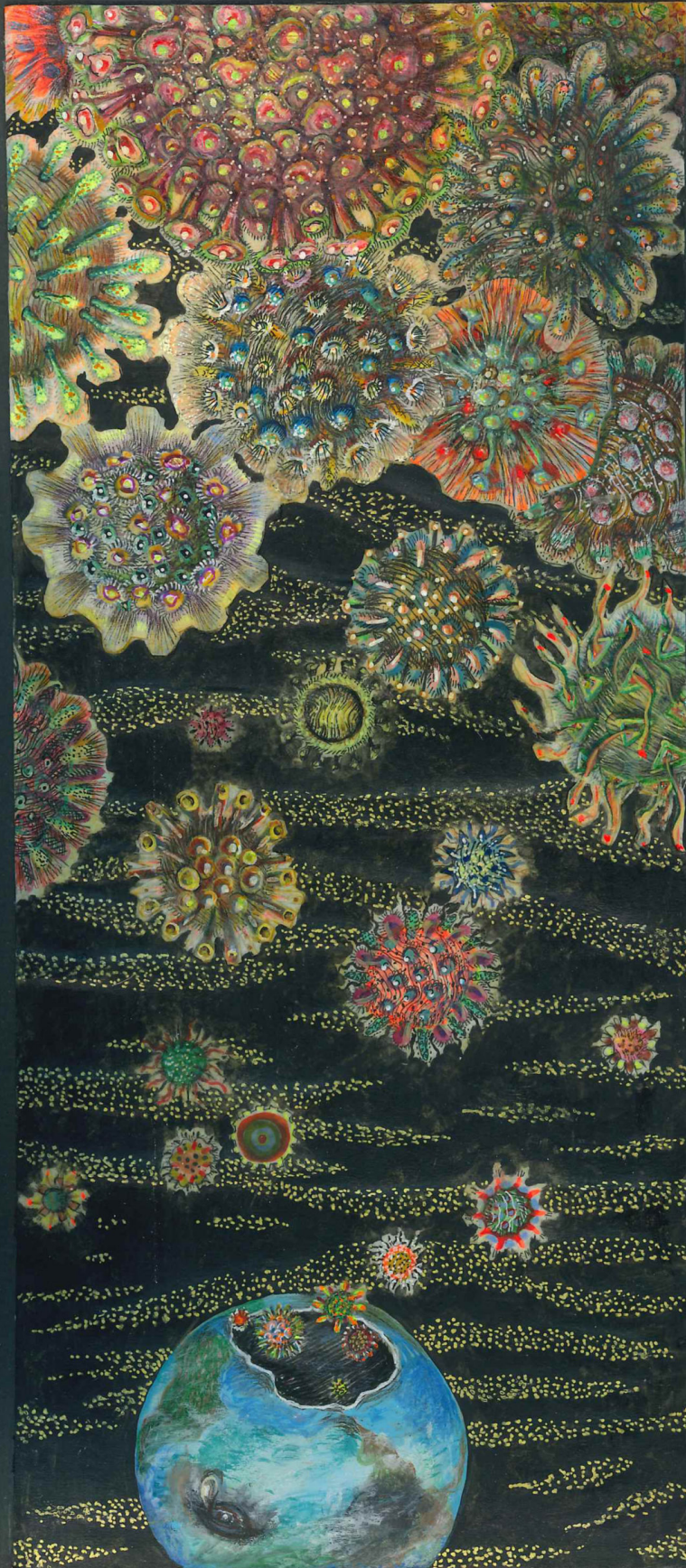


## A TALE OF HOPE DIVOC – 91

## COVID'S METAMORPHOSIS



A Tale of Hope

Once upon a planet, long, long ago  
A big ugly Virus appeared in the snow  
By her mates she was called DIVOC-91  
Outlawed in her country - always on the run  
Ah!....  
DIVOC-91, she jiggled and oozed  
She climbed to the top of a leafless tree  
Her large body wrapped in a jelly cocoon

It held her dear Babies, all set to hatch,  
Afloat, at the ready, in their wet habitat  
She sat there quite still in the light of the moon  
And waited and waited ...and waited till noon!

Well.....

Out they came, Virus Babies galore  
Until there were thousands and thousands and more  
At first, like all babies they looked like their Mom  
From her bilious grime green  
And dirty retch yellow  
To her trembling black cilia  
Toothy grin, pirate eye  
They were, oh so evil, so happy, so spry!

But ....

They grew very quickly and started to change  
An odd evolution began to take place,

A bulge here and there, a shift and a shake  
Their bodies grew tentacles, spikes and designs  
They burst forth in colors, circles and lines  
Ready to spar, to attack and to fight-  
They swore filial loyalty to their Mother's delight!

Then...

DIVOC-91 called them to order  
"We shall conquer the world!  
Come hither my dears!"  
Born by the wind, they soared through the air  
Flying together, shedding nightmares of fear

So...

They reached Mother Earth  
She was taking the sun,  
Relaxed, unsuspecting of what was to come  
They bore a huge hole through and through in her side  
She was stunned, she yelled out, she started to cry  
But they were, oh too evil, too happy, too spry!  
They came out through Earth's crust  
To the green lands above  
The forests, the fields, and the cities of Men

A Virus invasion, they danced and they jigged  
Inside peoples' mouths, their noses and ears  
They gave them high fevers and eyes full of tears  
They made people choke while they spluttered and coughed...  
Thus all around Earth humans fell sort of breath  
And within a few days they'd withered to death!



Meanwhile.....

Mother Nature enraged at this cruelest of games

“Enough is enough!” – she decided to act  
She pulled from her box the one thing they lacked  
The most precious object, a large beating Heart,  
Luscious and red, she broke it to pieces  
These came alive and they started to spread  
Piercing the DIVOCs’ one evil eye  
They, unaware, still fighting, still spry!

All of a sudden, right in mid-air,  
The Viruses stopped, seemed rather scared,  
“What’s happening to us, we feel something’s wrong!  
There’s a thumping inside us that sounds like a gong!”  
The thumping they felt was none other than hearts  
Sending fun, love and joy to all body parts  
They began to grow legs, sprouted feathers and wings  
Eyes and small hands and pearls fit for kings!

Their Mother, transformed, had become “very good”  
She ran about helping the whole neighborhood  
The DIVOC-91s did just the same,  
They entered their victims’ eyes, ears, and noses  
Infused them with health in very high doses  
They shot through their systems and made them get well  
Men, women and children came back from Hell!  
Hence.....

The DIVOCs mutated, converted, evolved  
They’d become something else, so much better, so resolved  
To improve day by day, to think, read and write  
To embrace Mother Nature and take great delight

In Earth's new-found happiness, in others' well being  
Flitting person to person on their tireless new wings...

They turned into Spiderleaves, a new kind of bug

Cat-billed Sony Beetles and Bull Bugs that write  
Fierce Warrior Shield Beetles, looking worse than their bites!

There were pregnant Pearl Spiderleaves in grand leafy bloom...

Parliament Bugs, Senate Bugs, and large Bridal Grooms....

Hairy-bottomed Arachnids with long, lanky legs...

And many more creatures with crowns on their heads...

Viruses and Men joined hands and sang songs  
Of Peace and Good Will and the righting of wrongs!

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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**Rebecca Hayward**

Rebecca Hayward, born in Chicago, Ill., USA, graduated cum laude with a

BA in Art History at the American University of Paris. She started her formal art training at age 14 with South African painter and illustrator, Pat Fogarty, learning basic drawing and illustration techniques, then began working with Belgian painter and engraver, Paul Franck, specializing in etching and oil painting. Since 1979 she has been living in Florence, Italy, where she perfected oil painting techniques at the Cecil-Graves studio. Since 1995 she has been professor of Life Drawing and Basic Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology of New York and at the Polimoda based in Florence. She has exhibited in many one-man and group shows in galleries both in Italy and abroad