

I'm a visual artist that used to sell prints, stickers, and other art products in person at table events around the city. This was a significant portion of income for my art business and helped fill the gaps when there weren't as many commercial gigs available. I was also attending networking events and workshops where I was meeting other creative professionals. Things were going well enough that we were considering purchasing a house in the city instead of renting. Now, the jobs have dried up, there's no in person sales, and virtual networking can only do so much. I know I'm not the only one this has affected. I was forced to quit a delivery job early on in the pandemic when it wasn't being taken seriously and I feared I'd infect my immunocompromised spouse. We are surviving, but on the brink.

Thanks for your time,  
Matthew Smith

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