



By Deidre Greben March 31, 2020

Take a Virtual Tour of LI Museums

“It’s what people need right now,” says Charles Riley, the director of the Nassau County Museum of Art about “Blue,” the exhibition focused around the Pantone color of the year that was slated to open in its gallery space just before the coronavirus pandemic forced Long Islanders into self-isolation. “The color blue is associated with escape, with serenity,” he says. Despite the closing of its historic building, the public can still be transported by the calming effects of the art on view there. Visit the museum’s home page (nassaumuseum.org) and get a narrated glimpse of what is waiting behind the Gold Coast mansion’s walls, from an iconic “Blue Nude” paper cutout by Matisse to a 36-foot-long cyanotype by Stony Brook artist Han Qin to fine examples of Dutch blue Delftware ceramics.

It’s one of many world-class art venues on Long Island offering Long Islanders armchair viewing while its doors are closed. Thanks to a grant from The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, Parrish Art Museum (parrishart.org) has upgraded the design and content of its website platform. “You can’t come into the building, but you can still be up close and personal,” says Parrish director Terrie Sultan.

Gallery-goers can continue to explore the museum through “Artists’ Stories,” a digital archive and commentary portraying its expansive holdings by artists working on the East End. Podcasts featuring conversations between curators, artists, performers and authors are also available for audience engagement, complemented by some 400 videos of the Parrish’s programs posted on Vimeo since its opening in Water Mill in 2012.

The museum has recently adapted its “Friday Nights Live” series to the online space, incorporating livestreaming and chats with prerecorded segments weekly at 5 p.m. For younger artists, the site offers weekly project lesson plans making good use of free time and found materials such as magazine clippings and bottle caps. Kids can display their creations on the Parrish Instagram page.

<https://www.newsday.com/entertainment/long-island/museums/virtual-museum-tours-1.43480149>