



“After the Storm” — paintings created in response to the pandemic by Kadir Nelson RE-JOICE #1 — February 2, 2023

Kadir Nelson is a well-known contemporary American painter and illustrator. In an interview with CBS Sunday Morning (April 19, 2020), he tells the story of how he came to create his recent collection of paintings about the pandemic. In “After the Storm” (below), he wanted to convey **the strength of the human spirit celebrating as humankind emerges from the devastation visited on all of us by the Covid pandemic.** This signature painting in the collection shows all manner of people — old, young, with all shades of skin — looking hopefully into the light. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01yRoSrhQME>

Nelson says his creative process starts with naming the particular feeling he wants to express. In the case of this painting he is intent on creating an image that will give people hope. All the people in the picture have the common goal of keeping **“their eyes trained on the light.”** They are **grouped closely together, touching one another and clasping hands** in a time when people are sorely missing the freedom to touch each another. He explains, **“We are all part of the human family, all experiencing this together,”** and together we are creating **“this beautiful document that shows where we’ve been and who we are, and how we’re going to move forward.”**

If you want to learn more about this collection of hopeful paintings, take a look at — **“In our Lifetime: Paintings from the Pandemic”** — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW0Ldk0YMC0> — produced by the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA.

