

SEANKELLY

Seymour, Tom, and Gareth Harris. "Portrait of a pandemic: five works at Art Basel that confront Covid-19." *The Art Newspaper*. September 24, 2021.



THE ART NEWSPAPER

At Art Basel this year, a selection of works explores some of the ways artists sought to understand and communicate the profound consequences of Covid-19 on our physical selves, mental wellbeing, family ties and communities near and far.



Hugo McCloud, the burden of man: waiting to breathe (2021); Sean Kelly, Vielmetter Courtesy of the artist, Sean Kelly Gallery and Vielmetter

Hugo McCloud, *the burden of man: waiting to breathe* (2021)

Sean Kelly, Vielmetter

A row of oxygen tanks depicted in Mexico-based Hugo McCloud's painting, priced at \$450,000 in Unlimited, is a grim reminder of shortages in countries such as India at the height of the pandemic, which contributed to the deaths of thousands. The tanks are set against a backdrop of migration paths, alluding to the unfinished border wall between Mexico and the US. The work "is directly responding to the pandemic and other current issues happening simultaneously such as migration; the oxygen tanks are relating to the shortages in many impoverished areas," McCloud says.