

Diego Rivera, *The Flower Carrier*, 1935



****First Question First****

What is *your* immediate reaction to this artwork?

Trust it. Write about it. Use the guide sheet for help.

Continue reading for another perspective and journal questions.

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The word of our time seems to be “unprecedented.” Covid-19 has spread to every part of the globe, affecting each one of us in some way. Our collective anxieties are palpable. Masked and distanced, we can feel hampered in how to support each other or seek support in this scary time. So, going on the assumption that we are all struggling to, at minimum, just hang in there, we may feel stymied in sharing our sorrows with even those closest to us. We don’t want to lay anymore burden at the feet of who we love. Losing someone during a pandemic is, indeed, an unparalleled grief.

And, yet to varying degrees we are all sharing this common experience of loss. We cannot hug who we love or hold their hands. We dare not share a meal at each other’s home or even a cup of coffee. We worry about one another. The unknown defines our lives as we look into the future. Our moorings have been jostled. We mourn our pre-pandemic lives, not knowing what may be gone forever. If our common experiences influence our language, then ultimately “grief” may become the next word of the day.

Q.) How has this pandemic time affected your grieving? How has it complicated some aspects of grief while simplifying others?