Watching Watching

By Jason DeHart

An act of Cartesian curiosity – I am, after all, this being or form, existing, an open eye that refuses to blink when it should, trapping images like mouse upon painful pads, traveling along the digital word, the image of myself peering back at me.

I’ve learned a lot, but I still stumble through a monologue sometimes.

The unknowing in me, which may be mingled with hopes for expertise, wishes for more than gestures, more than promises that prove hollowed, perhaps an unseen, welcoming continent of shared experience, a pipeline to what counts as consciousness, but I must admit I enjoy the connections, the collaborations, that knowing glance back in a shadowed room, one being noticing another if only in millisecond frame.

Here we are, assembled in this virtual theater none of us asked for, threading words together with images to make sentences to make meaning.

How long have you been here?
How long will we be here?
Will we ever be the same?

A play across our faces, the flickers of actors moving on a stage.

This poem draws on our current experience in digital literacy during the pandemic.
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