

PHYLLIS GREEN'S POST-PANDEMIC VISION

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons recently released data that show “broad declines in both minimally invasive and surgical cosmetic procedures as a result of pandemic closures.” While these findings might be attributed to the reluctance of individuals to visit doctors’ offices and hospitals while Covid19 raged, or the inability of medical facilities to accommodate such patients, I choose to think of them in a different way: that the isolation of the past fourteen months stimulated a kind of self-reflection that encouraged us to consider identities forged by connections to work, family, friends and the natural environment. My vision for a post-pandemic California is that we let go of our identities as thirty-year-old bodies, inspired by media images of the ideal, and allow ourselves to ripen like fruit, soft, juicy and sweet.