The stories of NHS workers contending with the covid pandemic in Liverpool have been celebrated in a series of portraits by the internationally famous artist Aliza Nisenbaum.

The Mexican born, New York based painter met her sitters over video calls that lasted many hours. In their portraits the workers are shown alongside things that have given them support and hope through this difficult time, such as pets or musical instruments.

An exhibition of the work is now being held by Tate Liverpool, featuring two large scale group portraits, one of which is Team Time Storytelling, Alder Hey Children’s Hospital Emergency Department, Covid Pandemic 2020 (pictured), and 11 individual portraits.

Nisenbaum told the Tate, “It’s hard to empathise with numbers—like when you hear ‘X number of hospital workers have been working sleepless nights.’ But when you actually see their faces, the lustre they have, I feel like that will humanise them.”

The Aliza Nisenbaum exhibition is at Tate Liverpool until 27 June.