

***Faces of Wisconsin* reveals noteworthy historic and everyday Wisconsinites**

Cedarburg Art Museum's 2021 exhibition *Faces of Wisconsin* features portraiture in a variety of media and styles. Historic, well-known, and today's everyday citizens are the subjects in this museum exhibition in the historic Wittenberg-Jochem mansion at W63N675 Washington Avenue.



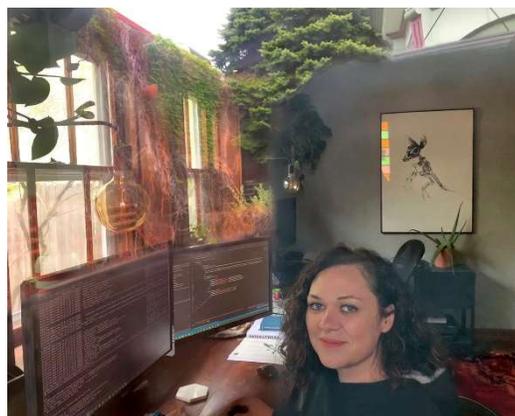
Seven area emerging and established artists were chosen for *Faces of Wisconsin* by a small team initially led with the inspiration and leadership of artist and then-CAM Board Member Pamela Ruschman.

Cedarburg artist Patrick Doughman's entries include a four-color linocut print, five paintings in his unique acrylic engraving technique, and an egg tempera painting. Doughman's works feature historic Wisconsin-born celebrities or heroes or heroines such as General William "Billy" Mitchell, founder of the U.S. Air Force (detail, shown at left), and Golda Meir, an Israeli stateswoman and Prime Minister after her high school and college years in Milwaukee. Roman Catholic priest James Groppi and a little-known Milwaukee-born and educated German resistance fighter in Nazi Germany are also illuminated in Doughman's artful pieces.

Vicki Reed, a Cedarburg photographer whose works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, has submitted thirteen prints from her *Pandemic Portrait* series. All these photos were taken through windows or doors while Reed makes artful statements with reflections of the environment playing a role. Four of the photographs are encaustics; that is, prints rendered with a hot wax coating. A vintage window with glass panes provides the showcase for nine other portraits of area citizens coping in different ways with the 2020 "Safer at Home" order in Wisconsin. Come see

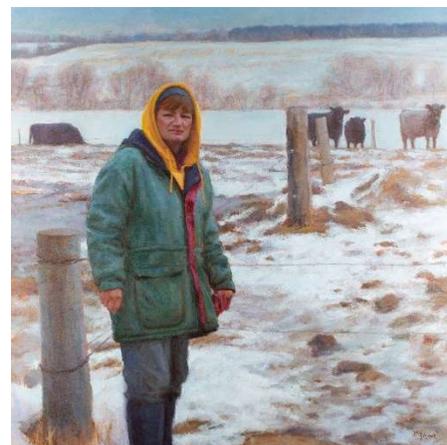


who you can identify through the windows! At right, Callie Reed is the subject for Vicki's photo through a window that mysteriously shows the indoors and outdoors simultaneously.



Artists Sasha Kinens and Lori Beringer utilize traditional oil painting to reveal their portrait subjects. Kinens of Whitefish Bay uses live models for her portraits set in the Wisconsin landscape. Attention to distinctive garb plays a role in her portraits rendered naturalistically. In *Autumn Solace*, shown at left, Kinens renders her model in detailed naturalism near a wooded area above Whitefish Bay's Lake Michigan shoreline. Other Kinens portraits in this exhibition also reveal the artist's interest in how the costume bears a relationship to the landscape and the season.

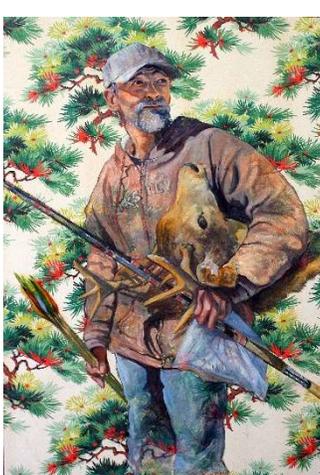
In two of her portraits, Lori Beringer reveals the hard-working role of her sister in working the family farm in all seasons. Beringer incorporates the naturalistically rendered rural Wisconsin landscape in these portraits in oil. *Breath of Winter*, at right, is Beringer's 40-inch square portrait of her sister who attends to everyday tasks on the family farm. Two other painterly and astute head-and-shoulders portraits that won national awards round out the Plymouth artist's contributions to this exhibition.



Doug Witz of West Bend has contributed his unique miniature sculptural works in painted polymer clay. Four of his works feature quirky characters in Wisconsin's current and historic culture in miniature. However, *Harry in a Can* is larger, showing Witz's sculpted head of Harry Houdini poking out of a life-size, metal milk can. This work memorializes one of the famous illusionist's escapes out of a locked milk can filled with water. Two other works feature Rhinelander's Eugene Shepard and his hoax of the captured, mythical hodag, shown at left, and Samson, the gorilla that lived for 32 years at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Two other Witz surprises await your visit.



Milwaukee fiber artist Rosy Petri and Brookfield artist Janet Roberts employ fabric in new and exciting ways in their portraiture work. Petri is mindful of her ancestors' survival of the Middle Passage from Africa to America when she depicts Black American heroes and heroines in Wisconsin's history. Petri utilizes colorful, patterned fabrics in raw-edged appliqué to depict Major League Baseball's Hank Aaron or the role that Milwaukee legislator Vel Phillips and Father James Groppi played to achieve the Fair Housing Act of 1968. A detail of Petri's *Vel 'n Nem* artwork in fiber is shown at right.



Portrait artist Janet Roberts skillfully employs oil paint over vintage, patterned fabric in two of her portraits of nearly full-figure subjects. Her *Small Town Sweetheart* is at the base of the CAM stairway, beckoning visitors to the second floor. That work and her *Flea Market Man*, at left, employ vintage or recently taken photographs to aid in her artistic transformation of her subjects painted in oil. While oil paint is typically opaque, Roberts also allows areas of translucency with the fabric showing through in her "Up North" outdoorsman in *Flea Market Man* or in the drum majorette in *Small Town Sweetheart*. Another painting, *Portrait of Fatima Laster*, is a traditional, extraordinarily realistic three-quarter view of a Milwaukee gallery owner and artist in oil paint.

See the portraiture of the seven Wisconsin artists on Cedarburg Art Museum's second floor January 15 through May 9, thanks to sponsorship by Landmark Seed, Feed & Supply. Current visitor hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 12 – 4pm, but hours are subject to change due to COVID-19 guidelines, so check at the museum's website, www.cedarburgartmuseum.org, for current information.