

# LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY

## ARTIST STATEMENT: CYNTHIA SITTON

I have deep gratitude for the women painters of the past and present. There is a feeling of sisterhood. Serena Potter, the subject of my painting, is part of that sister-hood.

The original, satirical ideas for the idea of "Beard Unity" came from a particular event. During an art conference and subsequent studio visits, Serena and I noticed that the art critics visited male artist studios. These visits were posted on social media platforms. They all happened to have beards. This started fun, and sometimes serious conversations about women in the art world. The beards became commentary and a comedic release.

Some of the thoughts and questions I hope to pose from this piece are:

How are women represented in the art community?

Do women need to sacrifice their perceived femininity to compete in the overall art world?

Is the perception of what is feminine stigmatized by both male and female artists? What is gender and is it important to classify an artist? Does it change the art? What personal bias is in me, in others, and in the collective public?

Sometimes through satire, the truth reveals itself.