

poetsandartists

Cover Artist: Angela Hardy



A photograph of Sergio Gomez, a man with short, light-colored hair and glasses, wearing a white button-down shirt and dark pants. He is standing in an art gallery with various artworks visible in the background. The lighting is warm and focused on him.

Sergio Gomez
Gallery Owner/Director
www.33contemporary.com

33 Contemporary Gallery is a Chicago-based fine arts gallery with over seven years of continuous exhibitions. Our purpose is to represent, promote and facilitate collaborations through the gallery, online presence, mobile media and to provide our clientele (experienced and novice) with a fine selection of art works. We represent local, national and international emerging and established artists working in various media. We provide diverse opportunities for self-exploration, enrichment and professional growth via collaborations with local and international artists, as well as other galleries and art institutions.



What is the gallery's approach to portraiture?

For the last seven years, we have been organizing the National Self Portrait Exhibition as a way to document the long tradition of artists' self-portraits. We accept submissions in any media and in all ranges of styles. A jury process is done to select each year's exhibition.

What percentage of works featured in the gallery are portraits?

Besides the Annual National Self Portrait show, regular exhibitions vary from month to month and its hard to come up with a percentage figure. We try to really promote the self portrait show before, during and after the gallery exhibition to maximize its exposure. We show a good mix of figurative and abstract work year round.

Tell us about the self-portrait yearly feature in your gallery and any interesting aspects of the show.

In celebration of the 7th anniversary of the National Self-Portrait Exhibition and 33 Contemporary Gallery (formerly known as 33 Collective Gallery), this year's exhibition was the largest one to date. 33 Contemporary Gallery in collaboration with the Zhou B. Art Center organized the show in the 12,000+ sq. ft. first floor of the Zhou B Art Center. The entire first floor of the Zhou B. Art Center became a national laboratory for the exploration and visual representation of the "self." This exhibition was entirely devoted to different aspects of self-awareness, individual perception and identity. It included works ranging from representational and non-representational to conceptual ideas of the self. It also featured works in a variety of media.

Every year, the exhibition goes online as well and it's kept online indefinitely. To date, we have collected 746 contemporary self-portraits online by artists nationwide. Our goal is to achieve 1,000 portraits online. This year's exhibition comprised of 146 works and it featured audio tours with commentaries on 90% of the works in the exhibition. Another aspect to note is that we are working to include this year's exhibition in our iPhone App that is in the development process right now and we hope to launch it later this fall.

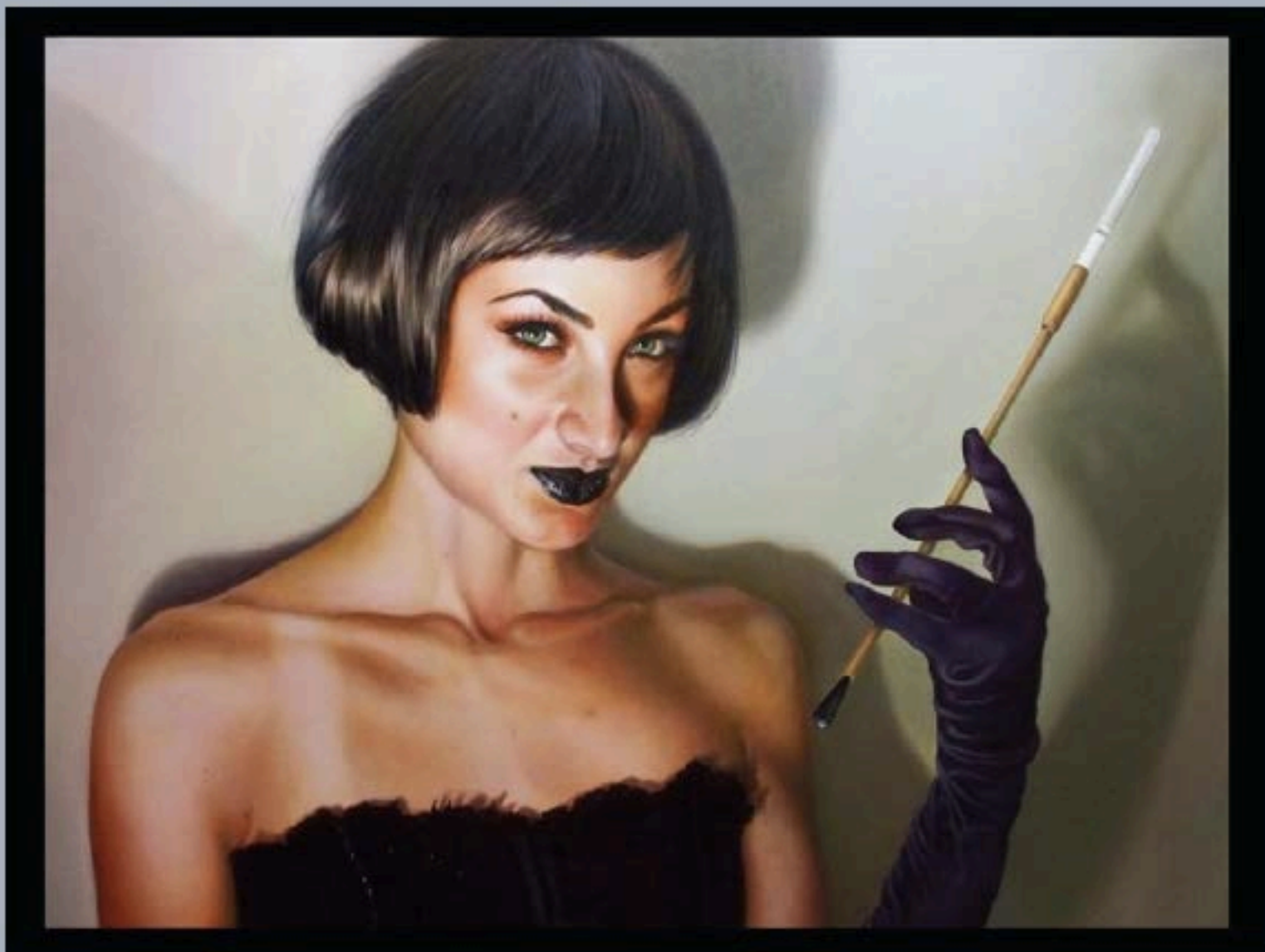
What is the best approach for a portrait artist to be included in your gallery?

Artists can sign up on our website to receive our monthly email campaigns. We use that method to publicize our annual call for self portraits.

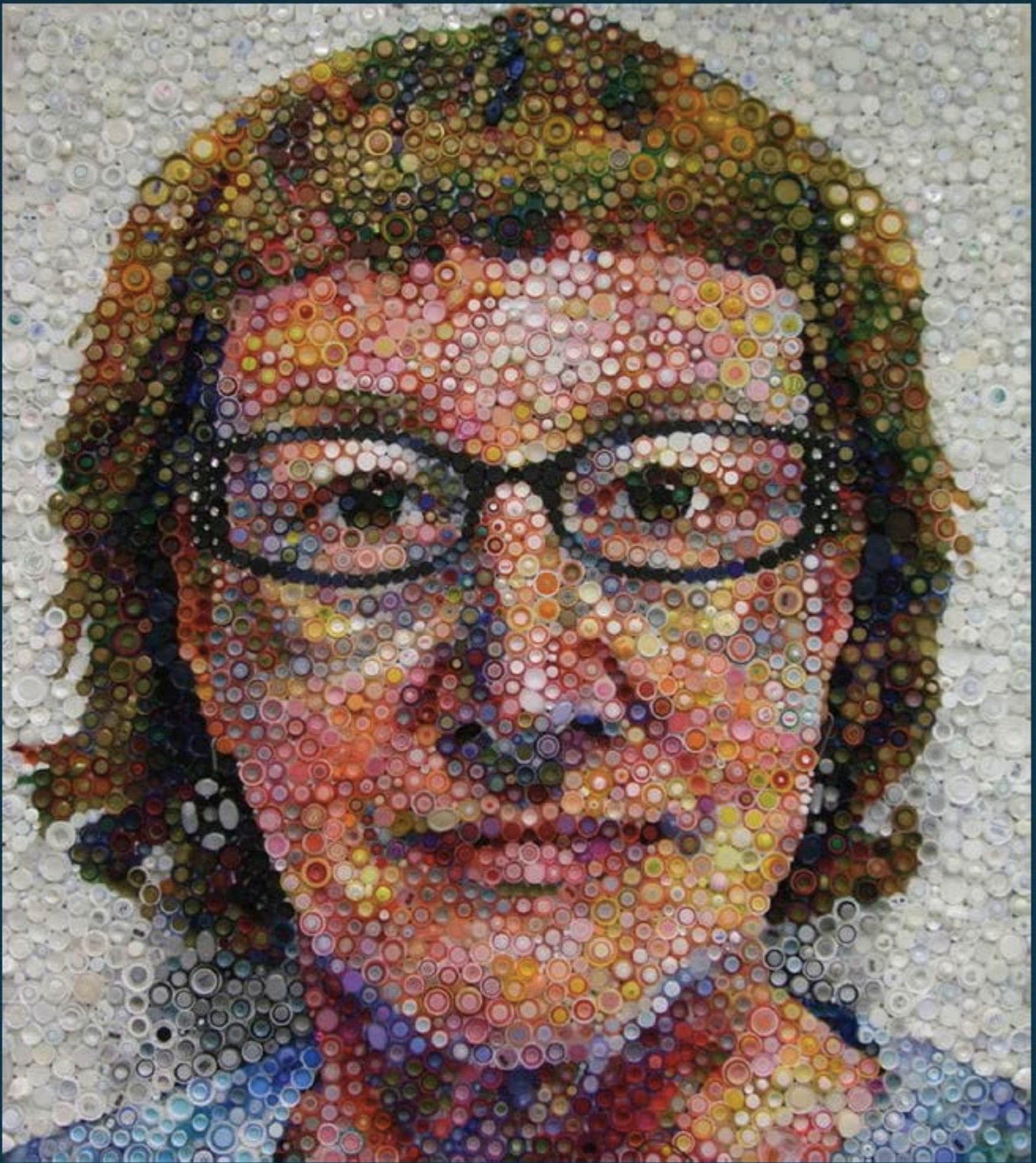
What other works is your gallery interested in?

33 Contemporary Gallery is interested in a wide range of styles and mediums from abstraction to representation. I look for emerging and established artists that fit who we are as a gallery. Character of the artist is as important for me as the work itself.

33 Contemporary Gallery is located on the first floor of the Zhou B. Art Center. The newly remodeled 80,000 sq. ft. building in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood houses a vibrant mix of galleries, artist studios, and other art related businesses.



33 CONTEMPORARY GALLERY: Marisa Andropolis *If Looks Could Kill* - oil on canvas 48" x36"



33 CONTEMPORARY GALLERY Mary Ellen Grotea *CLOSE* Assemblage/plastic bottle caps 8 ft x 7 ft x 4 in.



33 CONTEMPORARY GALLERY: Jessica Freudenberg - ... and I want it NOW! oil on panel 48"x36"x2"