



Local Benicia Artist Acquired into The Bennett Collection® of Women Realists

Contemporary artist Sara Gallagher's work joins some of the most exciting women painters on the cutting edge of figurative realism. Wednesday, Dec. 1st, 2021

Benicia, CA: Hometown artist, Sara Gallagher, recently had her artwork acquired into The Bennett Collection® of Women Realists, an esteemed collection that limits its work to figurative realist paintings of women by women artists. The collection is based on two core beliefs: to counteract gender discrimination against women in the fine arts, and to shift focus back to figurative realism, which over time has become disfavored by academics and art establishments in comparison to abstract and conceptual works of art.



The collection is founded by Dr. Elaine Melotti Schmidt and Steven Alan Bennett. As stated on their website, “Schmidt and Bennett are among the country’s foremost collectors of figurative realist art and are committed to seeing that talented women painters receive long-overdue recognition, such as solo exhibitions, higher prices for their work, commissions and inclusion in museum and private collections.”

When reflecting on their recent acquisition they noted, “we have been following Sara’s work on Instagram (@saragallagherartwork) for the past few years. Gallagher worked exclusively and impressively with graphite, though we don’t collect drawings only paintings. Happily, her work has taken a new direction and she created this piece, “The Homes We Make”, with mixed media which we were pleased to acquire. Additionally, the theme deals with mental health which is close to our hearts.”

Gallagher is passionate about utilizing her artwork to help break the taboos that surround mental health in the United States. She harnesses her experience of working with disadvantaged youth and people with disabilities to bring about an empathetic lens into the complex experience of what it is to be human. Creating a collaborative experience, she engages with her models personally, allowing a vulnerable, authentic discussion to set the direction of each artwork. As one of her participants reflects, “it’s easy to think that I’m the only one going through certain trails and tribulations. Working with Sara was raw and vulnerable, it was a release that ultimately lead to feeling more connected to others around me.”





You can find Gallagher on Instagram at [@saragallagherartwork](https://www.instagram.com/saragallagherartwork) and contact her at inquiries@saragallagherartwork.com to view current available works, schedule a studio visit, or to become a participant in her body of work.

About Sara Gallagher: Sara received her BFA with a dual emphasis in Painting & Drawing and Photography from SF State in 2013. From 2019-21 she studied under the renowned German hyperrealism artist, Dirk Dzimirsky. Her work has been featured in national and regional art magazines and books, has been acquired by private and public collections, and exhibits in galleries and museums across the United States. Sara is represented by 33 Contemporary Gallery in Chicago, IL, and lives and works out of her small West Marin studio in the redwoods.