

Press Release

For Immediate release

July 1, 2019

Contact: Deborah Ridgley at 513-259-9302

Mariemont, OH: What do a Cincinnati judge, a famous athlete, a TV anchorman and a chef all have in common? They are all participants in the on-going portrait project, *a Portrait of Cincinnati*, created by Cincinnati portrait artist Deborah Ridgley.

It began in February of 2018. Ridgley says that she started her project by inviting a cross-section of unique personalities and newsmakers that shape the modern Cincinnati community. As of June 2019, she has completed the faces of more than 55 Cincinnatians in oil. The mission of the *Portrait of Cincinnati* was to create a one-on-one interaction with the sitter and ultimately a collective interaction with the community.

"As an artist living and working in the area my entire life, I have always wanted to 'paint the town' and see the great people of Cincinnati through an artist's eyes. The most exciting part of this project was meeting the wonderful variety of participants who volunteered to sit for their portrait sketch," said Ridgley, a Kenwood resident. From all walks of life, the participants are from the Cincinnati community including leaders and professionals in the arts, sports, medicine, government, non-profits, local businesses and the butcher, baker and candlestick maker.



"I am in love with Cincinnati. It's an amazing city, close to magical...full of outrageously wonderful people who are courageous, kind, generous and wicked smart," said Julie Isphording, an Olympic marathon runner and Cincinnati resident, who is one of Ridgley's subjects.



The direct interaction with the sitter was paramount for this project. During the painting process Ridgley enjoyed hearing their unique life stories and asking each subject about what they enjoy most about Cincinnati.

Ridgley plans to incorporate the responses to her questions in the exhibit. In addition, her main goal was to create a shorthand painted sketch from life, rather than a finished portrait.

"A big part of my discipline is painting from life, with the goal of recording the unique quality of the sitter that can only be achieved by starting a painting from life," she said. The exhibition will be held at the Woman's Art Club Cultural Center, 6980 Cambridge Avenue, Mariemont on September 20-30. The Opening Reception is on September 20, from 6-9 pm. Hours of Exhibition: Tuesday - Friday 10-2 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 pm. For more information call 513-259-9302.

The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati Cultural Center 6980 Cambridge Avenue Mariemont, Ohio. 45227

Artatthebarn.org 513-272-3700