

CONNIE MILLHOLLAND
ARTIST STATEMENT

"Forgetting" resides in my *Women's Stories Series*. Most of my art contains a message, and when I heard Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez speak on the House of Representatives floor responding to criticism, I had to capture her demeanor in a painting. Her expression relays the courage it takes to speak one's mind and remain gracious and dignified as she reveals to the floor the story of verbal abuse given to her by a fellow male house member.

Women have stories and I have chosen to paint women in various scenes that allow the viewer to put themselves into the painting. As they view the facial expressions of the figures and feel the emotions, they may recall an incident at home, at work or in any "gathering" where disrespect was projected. Unfortunately dishonoring females has been evident throughout history in all cultures, but fortunately it is currently coming into the limelight through the *Me Too Movement*. Women are becoming stronger and as they combine their efforts to speak against male tolerance of female oppression as AOC and her fellow House Representatives responded. They can make a man feel less tall than a dime lying on the sidewalk.

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Arts Benicia Juried Show
November/December 2020