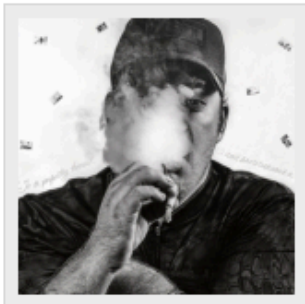


## Portraits of Military Veterans and Trauma Survivors at Aqua Art Miami

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### Depicting the Invisible

New York City-based artist **Susan J. Barron** will present a selection of the works from her new series, *Depicting the Invisible: A Portrait Series of Veterans Suffering from PTSD*, at HG Contemporary's booth at the seventh edition of Aqua Art Miami (December 5-9, 2018).

**"Twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day in our country"**

The series is composed of 14 mixed-media portraits at 6 feet by 6 feet that feature military veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD.) The portraits, a combination of photography, paint and text, are layered with the veterans' stories in their own words. The elegance of the images contrasts with the brutality of the narratives depicted. As they stare unflinchingly at the camera, the subjects are both vulnerable and powerful.

These works are about making a human connection. One work depicts Corporal Derek Butler with his dog as he recounts the horrors of war: "When I got back from Iraq, I'd have this one recurring nightmare—I had to watch my buddy die." He notes that he was united with his service dog after his second suicide attempt.

In the portrait of Sergeant Renoula Trotter the story of her rape by a star soldier captures the intersection of military sexual assault and the #MeToo movement.

Barron uses art to as a medium to affect social change. Barron's intent is not to deify the veterans but to illuminate their experiences and to initiate a conversation around the sensitive issue of PTSD. "Twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day in our country," says Barron. "The invisible wounds of war are just as devastating as the visible ones. My mission is to bring awareness to the PTSD epidemic and to provide a platform for veterans to share their stories."

A book of the portrait series, "Depicting the Invisible" has been published and will be available for sale. All proceeds will go to FFO, an amazing organization helping veterans with PTSD.

#### About

**Susan J. Barron** is a nationally recognized and internationally collected artist. Her paintings, both figurative and politically motivated, have been shown in galleries from San Francisco to New York. Ms. Barron has had solo shows throughout the United States, including New York City's Caelum Gallery, the Kevin Butler Gallery in Massachusetts, the First Frontier Collage Society in Texas, and the Lark Creek Gallery in California. Most recently, she debuted her series, *Depicting the Invisible: A Portrait Series of Veterans Suffering from PTSD*, at HG Contemporary gallery in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood, from November 9 through November 26.