

Mary Bridgman

# Portraits of Fashion

Mary Bridgman  
Umbra Suites, 5th #26  
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The Flower Garden  
Oil on Linen  
80" x 46"

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Mother with Butterflies

Oil on Linen

80" x 46"

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The Dancers  
Oil on Linen  
80" x 46"

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The Fashion Designer

Oil on Linen

80" x 46"

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The Runway Model  
Oil on Linen  
80" x 46"

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The Spanish Horse  
Oil on Linen  
80" x 46"

## Artist Statement

Mary Bridgman: American Contemporary

### PORTRAITS OF FASHION

In my oil portraits, I explore identity and self-expression by tracing the enduring conversation between fashion and art history. Fashion has long served as a visual marker of status, culture, and personality in portraiture – communicating not only the subject’s individuality, but also the social and political landscapes of their time. By drawing from traditional painting techniques, I situate my work within this lineage, honoring the craftsmanship of the past while engaging with the complexities of the present. With direct and indirect approaches to painting I am able to build depth, luminosity, and texture in my work, capturing both the physical and emotional layers of my subjects.

My subjects are depicted in garments that reflect both contemporary trends and deeper cultural or familial roots. This dialogue between old and new allows me to examine how clothing continues to shape and signify identity, heritage, and aspiration. I am especially interested in how attire has historically been used to both assert and conceal aspects of race, social class, and personal history, and how these dynamics resonate in today’s world.

My work invites viewers to recognize fashion as both artistic expression and a social statement, carrying stories of resilience, pride, and transformation. By bringing the personal and the political into dialogue on canvas, I seek to honor diverse experiences of selfhood and offer a space to consider how what we wear continues to inform and challenge who we are – both privately and publicly.

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