

# RUSSO ▲ LEE GALLERY

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My recent painting "Self-portrait in Rosa Bonheur's Studio" is a continuation of my series of self-portraits composed using portraits of artists from history as references. I began this exhibition as a tribute to Rosa Bonheur's career as the preeminent 19th century animal painter by showing myself in her Paris studio, referring to a portrait of Bonheur by George Achille-Fould. In the composition, I included excerpts from several of Bonheur's animal paintings such as a lioness with cubs, bunnies, a large black and white dog, a leopard and an elk. Bonheur followed in the footsteps of painters such as Frans Snyders (17th century Dutch), Jean-Baptiste Oudry (18th century French), George Stubbs (18th to 19th century English) and Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun (18th to 19th century French). Le Brun's "Self-portrait in a Straw Hat" is featured in my self-portrait as a still-life element on the bottom left floor area, and other still-life objects are strewn about on the floor including reproductions of painters Cassatt, Goya, Van Dyck and Rubens. Other paintings in this exhibition are still-life compositions staged with background references to significant historic animal paintings, as inquiries to play on that genre.

-Sherrie Wolf, 2023

Russo ▲ Lee Gallery, Inc.

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