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About the Paintings:
Images from Cathi Locati's collection of originals and signed and numbered limited edition giclees on canvas.

- 1. Patient Persistence**
Number two of five from the Women of the New Millennium collection
36"x60" (oil on canvas)
- 2. Destination Known**
72"x48" (oil on canvas)
- 3. Jerry Garcia**
16"x20" (oil on canvas)
- 4. Gary Cooper**
24"x30" (oil on canvas)
- 5. Audrey Hepburn**
(oil on canvas)



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Cathi Locati: Painter of People

By Teresa Conway



Cathi Locati doesn't remember when she decided to become an artist – she always was one. "Becoming an artist was not a conscious choice – it existed at the very heart of me," says Locati. "The way I think, feel, react to the world and see things differently makes me an artist personality."

Locati drew with pencil ever since she was a child, and is now an international figurative and portrait realism painter. It's something she's done without any real formal training. In fact, as a student at Eastern Washington University, she didn't study art, but majored in communication studies, earning her BA in 1991. Still, Locati says, the experience got her where she is today.

"My time at Eastern influenced me in many ways, but most particularly with my course of study about the brain with Dr. David Cornelius," says Locati. "As I cannot explain the 'how' of what I do – how I paint – I find the brain holds all the answers. I have continued my study of the brain and its world of magic ever since. The more I learn about the brain, the more I understand myself as an artist and realize that I am different. All artists are different because we are using parts of our brain that others allow to remain dormant."

But it wasn't just her course of study that impacted Locati in her years at Eastern – it was her experience as a human being. While Locati was earning her degree, she served in EWU student government as legislative chairman. This position allowed her to graduate because her class expenses were covered as compensation for her work. Had she not won the seat, Locati would not have been able to finish her senior year.

As a divorced, single parent and nontraditional student, she worked to represent student diversity issues, even testifying in Olympia for EWU. It was during that challenging time that Locati learned to paint realism after one basic portrait class in 1989 at the age of 27. She sold her first portrait in oil on canvas for \$1,600.

"I knew then that painting portraits could be an extra income stream for my kids and me," says Locati. She painted part time for 17 years while working full-time corporate jobs, before being able to devote more of her time exclusively to art. In December 2005, Locati was catapulted into the elite world of global art when she sold a 6-by-4-foot original oil titled "Destination Known," depicting a cowgirl lying in a bed of tulips, for \$38,000.

Today, the former Miss Montana USA and EWU alumna is the proud owner of Cathi Locati Galleri in upstate New York.

"The new Galleri in New York is going great as I offer a service called Custom Made Fine Art," says Locati. "It is not imperative

that I depend on high retail traffic through the store. Once people see my style of realism, they contact me and I go to people's homes and offices and paint exactly what they need, any size, color or subject matter to match couches, curtains and wall colors."

When choosing subject matter to draw, Locati gravitates towards the human face and figure. She believes people are drawn to her work by the emotion they feel when they look at it. She says women in particular relate to her new collection, "Women of the New Millennium," which depicts women working in roles traditionally associated with men.

"Women love my paintings of strong, sexy women being free, strong and happy," says Locati. "They associate with the powerful sense of female empowerment so evident in my work."

In addition to her collections, Locati is the official artist of one of America's first female commercial pilots, Julie Clark of Cameron Park, Calif. Clark commissioned Locati to create a lifetime commemorative painting. And Locati says a two-hour made-for-TV documentary titled, *Cathi Locati – Painter of People*, is set to be released this summer.

It's all exciting stuff for a working, single mother of two. But Locati says the most fulfilling part of what she does remains the actual painting of the piece, when she can experience the rare moments of quiet and concentration and create realism with no interruptions.

Locati says the full-time process of working and managing promotions and marketing for Cathi Locati Galleri is the work-intensive part of the job.

"Of course when paintings sell for \$3,000-\$38,000, that's always a good day, too, because it literally keeps the doors of the Galleri open and keeps me working in the field of art." **E**

For more information on Cathi Locati Galleri, visit: www.cathilocati.com

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