

Betty Sapp Ragan mastered a variety of media and techniques during her long career. This exhibition surveys 45 years of her artistic production.

During the course of her career, Ragan's work evolved through watercolor and oil painting into collage, photography, and printmaking. She joined portraits—primarily of women—with elements of the environment, both architectural and natural. In an interview she noted her continuing interest in “the relationship of human beings to the land—what we have done to it, and why we do the things we do with the land”.

Mac Ragan also has noted: “In the 1970s my mother started using images of women in her art. She was intrigued and outraged by the way women were treated as second class. She found this true in daily life as well as the art world. As a member of the Guerrilla Girls group in New York in the mid-1980s she worked with other women artists to promote gender and racial equality in the fine arts.”

Ragan's works were meticulously crafted. She would work and rework artworks until she was satisfied with the results. She also was a highly prolific artist creating work every day. Her son noted: “Making art was essential to my mother's well-being. So much so that she, on several occasions, told me that if there ever came a time when she couldn't have that creative outlet she'd rather not be alive...My mother produced numerous bodies of work through the decades. I often wonder how many new series we missed and what form they would have taken.”

**This exhibition was curated by Becky Frehse and Janet Marcavage in collaboration with the artist's son, Mac Ragan.**