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The National Veterans Memorial and Museum Presents *Depicting The Invisible: Portraits of Veterans Suffering From PTSD* Opening April 3, 2021

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](https://www.nationalvmm.org) today announced the April 3 opening of a deeply moving special exhibition -- [Depicting The Invisible: Portraits of Veterans Suffering from PTSD](#). The series of large format, multimedia portraits and the award-winning documentary film short by artist Susan J. Barron are presented at the museum with generous support from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council. The exhibition will be at the museum through January 2, 2022.

“Through her captivating portraits, Susan J. Barron challenges us to confront the invisible realities of individuals with PTSD,” said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired), president and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. “We are proudly partnering with Susan to create a dialogue around the stigmas of PTSD to eliminate the isolation and connect Veterans with communities.”

“This body of work was inspired when I learned that 22 Veterans commit suicide every day in America,” said Susan J. Barron. “As an artist, I wanted to shine a light on this epidemic of PTSD and suicide. I want to give these Veterans a voice.”

The series of 14 hauntingly beautiful six-foot by six-foot works on canvas was created through a combination of photographic imagery, paint and text including the Veterans’ stories. Each Veteran in these portraits makes unflinching eye contact with the viewer as they share the truth of their challenges, triumphs and hopes in their own words.

Barron traveled the country for two years collecting Veterans’ stories to bring awareness to PTSD. Every portrait sheds light on the individual’s invisible scars to showcase the experience of daily life with PTSD. It is Barron’s hope that the Veterans who generously participated in this project will find the telling of their stories cathartic, and feel they are making a difference by giving back.



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Depicting The Invisible is being shown at the museum as part of our ongoing mission to share the Veteran experience through their own stories. We are partnering with Susan J. Barron to create a dialogue and community around the stigmas associated with war's invisible scars to show these brave individuals they are not alone, end their isolation and showcase their service and sacrifice for our country.

Interactive Events

In support of *Depicting The Invisible*, the museum and Susan J. Barron will present a series of interactive events including: Beyond The Exhibit: *Depicting The Invisible* on June 17. Additional events will be added as dates are confirmed. Stay tuned for details at: NationalVMM.org.

About Susan J. Barron

Susan J. Barron is an exceptionally diverse, multi-award-winning artist whose work has been collected and commissioned across the nation. Whether working with oil on canvas, photographic processes, or incorporating sculpture and collage elements, her work bravely and beautifully explores the intersection of the viewer's preconception and reality. Barron has had solo exhibitions throughout the United States. She studied art at the Art Institute of San Francisco and Yale School for the Arts and divides her time between New York and Arizona.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. The Memorial and Museum also honors the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented in a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multimedia presentations, interactive exhibits, online events and digital content. Together, these elements link our national story to the larger context of our world. For more information, please visit NationalVMM.org.

Editor's Note: A selection of images is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/wnm95cs2>

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