REWRITING HERSTORY
VOLUME TWO
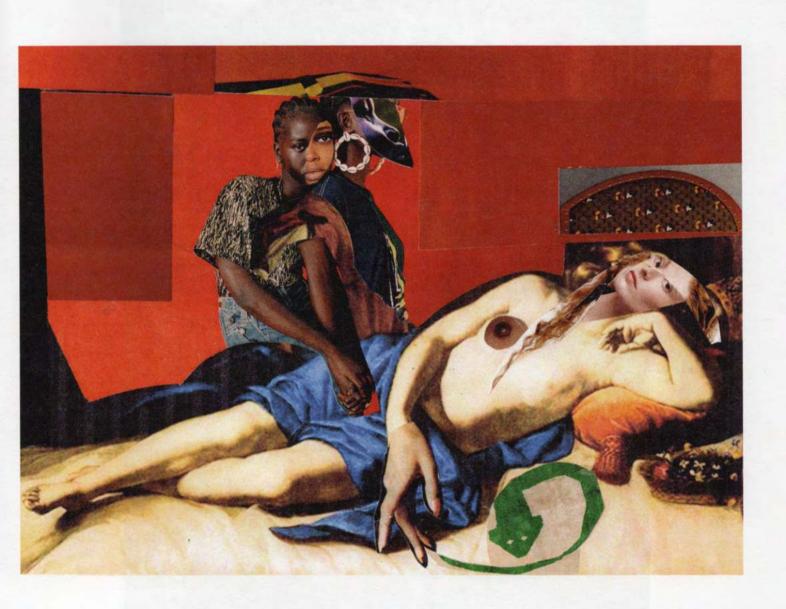

DRAWING ROOMS

VICTORY HALL PRESS

Women in the Visual Arts
Rodriguez Calero
Rahway, NJ

Artemisia Gentileschi was a seventeenth-century Italian Baroque artist. In an era when women had few opportunities to pursue artistic training, she was producing by the age of fifteen and was the first woman to become a member of the Accademia di Arte del Disegno in Florence and she had an international clientele. For many years Artemisia was regarded as a curiosity, but her life and art have been reexamined by scholars in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and she is now regarded as one of the most progressive and expressive painters of her generation.

Artemisia Gentileschi painting Cleopatra, 1633-1635 was the inspiration for my piece. The complicated vision of female power and powerlessness, shows Cleopatra's self-inflicted and solitary death brought about by her mistreatment by men. The image acts as a strong symbol of the lack of recourse that women had available to them and the impact that this had on those around them, in this instance the female attendants in the back.

Rodríguez Calero, Cleopatra, 2021, Collage, 8 × 10 3/4 in

Women in the Visual Arts
Rodriguez Calero
Rahway, NJ

Artemisia Gentileschi painted Susanna and the Elders at the age of 17. She presents us with an image rare in art, of a three-dimensional female character who is heroic. Artemisia deals with the heroine's plight, not the villains' anticipated pleasure, and this offers an entirely different set of concerns to many of her male counterparts. It reflects sexual harassment that Artemisia was receiving by Agostino Tassi and other artists' hands, once she began training at his studio.

Susanna and the Predators (originally titled Susanna and the Elders) is based on a biblical theme. Elders were changed to Predators because the times have called for action. The virtuous Susanna is distressed at being watched and accosted by the men, presenting the incident as a traumatic event.

Rodríguez Calero, Susanna and the Predators, 2021, Collage, 10 1/2 × 7 3/4 in