# Artist Sarah Boardman faces backlash after Trump's criticism of her portrait



British-born artist Sarah Boardman has faced a turbulent backlash on her career following scathing criticism from former President Donald Trump regarding a portrait of him, which was displayed in the Colorado State Capitol. Boardman, with over four decades as a professional painter, asserts that Trump's disparaging remarks have severely tarnished her reputation and jeopardised her livelihood.

The controversy ignited when Trump unleashed his disdain on his Truth Social platform in January, labeling Boardman's work “truly the worst.” He condemned the portrait, which had hung for six years, as “purposefully distorted to a level that even I, perhaps, have never seen before.” His remarks not only belittled her artistic integrity but suggested an alarming decline in her talent, with him asserting, "She must have lost her talent as she got older."

This sharp critique has had dire consequences. The day after Trump’s comments, the painting was swiftly removed from the Capitol and relegated to storage, underscoring how easily political whims can devastate careers. Speaking to Sky News, Boardman discussed the financial uncertainty unleashed by the backlash, emphasizing that her artistic integrity has been "called into question." “The additional allegations that I 'purposefully distorted' the portrait...are directly and negatively impacting my business of over 41 years, jeopardising its chance to recover,” she lamented.

Boardman further stressed that during its display, her portrait had received “overwhelmingly positive feedback” and that every facet of her painting process was sanctioned by the Colorado State Capitol Advisory Committee. She resolutely asserted, “I completed the portrait accurately, without 'purposeful distortion', political bias, or any attempt to caricature the subject—actual or implied.”

Commissioned in 2019, during Trump’s first term, the portrait aimed to sit alongside those of other American presidents, including Barack Obama and George W. Bush, both of whom Boardman has previously painted. In a peculiar twist of events, Trump’s team has since replaced her work with a portrait crafted by a Russian artist, which his envoy has described as "beautiful."

Public reaction to Trump's comments has ironically sparked increased interest in Boardman's work, particularly among tourists eager to glimpse the erstwhile portrait. This incident not only reveals the tangled relationship between art and politics but also raises pressing questions about how political agendas can jeopardise the livelihoods of artists, especially those aligned with opposing viewpoints. In a climate where artistic expression can be swiftly stifled by political critique, the implications for creative professionals are grave and the need for a robust opposition to protect their rights is more pertinent than ever.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.tmz.com/2025/04/05/donald-trump-portrait-artist-slams-his-claims/> - Corroborates that Sarah A. Boardman, the artist behind the Donald Trump portrait in the Colorado State Capitol, has refuted Trump's claims of distortion and political bias, highlighting that the Colorado State Capitol Advisory Committee oversaw the process.
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g63dOwxNSN4> - Provides a video discussing the controversy surrounding Trump's criticism of the portrait and Boardman's response, emphasizing there was no political bias.
3. <https://www.noahwire.com> - Serves as the original source for the article discussing the impact of Trump's comments on Sarah Boardman's career.
4. <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - This legal document discusses principles of evidence that could be applied when evaluating the authenticity of claims and criticisms in legal or public forums, though it does not directly relate to the specific case of Sarah Boardman.
5. <https://www.justice.gov/archives/sco/file/1373816/dl?inline=> - A document related to investigations into political interference; however, it does not directly address the controversy surrounding Boardman's portrait.
6. <https://www.immigrantjustice.org/sites/default/files/content-type/resource/documents/2018-10/NIJC%20Asylum%20Manual_final%2007%202018.pdf> - While not directly related to the controversy, this document touches on broader legal issues concerning evidence and impact on individuals under scrutiny.
7. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/artist-behind-worst-donald-trump-35004193> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
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