

Sarah Miriam Peale

Susan Avery



Isaac Avery



NATIONAL MUSEUM of WOMEN *in the ARTS*

Susan Avery, 1821

Isaac Avery, 1821

A Family Affair

Sarah Miriam Peale (1800–1885) belonged to a talented family. Her father and uncle were prominent American artists, as were two of her sisters and seven of her cousins. Peale painters are known for their meticulous attention to detail.

Take a closer look

Peale's portraits of the Averys provide clues to their social and economic status. Susan's jewelry, tortoise-shell hair combs, and cashmere shawl, together with Isaac's jeweled tie pin, speak to their prosperity. But their open postures and facial expressions make them seem approachable rather than aloof.

Something to talk about

Paired paintings of husband and wife are called "pendant portraits." Often such images become separated over time. Art historians must then rely on details within the paintings to reunite them. Which details in these works indicate that they belong together?

Who knew?

Widely considered the first professional female painter in the United States, Peale portrayed a number of influential political figures, including the Marquis de Lafayette and Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

Sarah Miriam Peale, *Susan Avery*, 1821; Oil on canvas; 35¼ x 27½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum Purchase: The Lois Pollard Price Acquisition Fund; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

Sarah Miriam Peale, *Isaac Avery*, 1821; Oil on canvas; 35¼ x 27½ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum Purchase: The Lois Pollard Price Acquisition Fund; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

