

18 July 2003

Dear Bill,

Chisa cornered me by telephone the other day to tell me that she would like Scott or me to do your portrait. She told me how excited and complimentary you were about Scott's portrait of President Bush after you visited our "new" studio over the Christmas holidays.

I do remember asking you if you would sit for a portrait study by me. I was not angling for a portrait commission; I simply wanted to do a head study for practice, and I particularly wanted (and still do!) to paint somebody I knew well and who has played an important part in my life. You were (and still are) an excellent choice.

If I liked the portrait study, I planned to keep it, at least for the foreseeable future, to show prospective clients. I have only recently begun to attempt portraiture, and so far I have been pleased with the results.

I will do a portrait study of you, if you will sit. I have simply been incredibly busy with the current phase of our studio remodelling. Bill, you won't believe it when you see what we have done.

Since your mother kept mentioning your reaction to the president's portrait, I assume that you might be interested in having something more substantial than what I had in mind, that probably you or she would be interested in a full fledged treatment by Scott.

Scott currently receives from \$45,000 to \$150,000 for a portrait depending on the size and complexity of the final image. My price for a full portrait (not a study) starts at \$25,000.

If Chisa or you want to commission a portrait and the photos and pose are agreed upon, then the client pays a 50% non-refundable deposit for work to begin. This is the standard procedure for most important portrait artists. The non-refundable deposit gives the artist some power in dealing with picky clients. It works.

I should say that neither Scott nor I have ever had a portrait rejected and that all our experiences with past clients have been enjoyable. After President and Mrs. Bush gave me a tour of the presidential portraits at the White House, I came away convinced that Scott is one of the best portrait painters in the country. I really couldn't believe though how second rate most of the White House portraits were. By the way, the president has asked Scott to paint the official White House portraits of both him and Mrs. Bush when the time comes, which traditionally is at the end of the president's term.

Right now Scott's portrait schedule is pretty full. He is currently painting a portrait of Allison Richards, who is the niece and daughter of Humphrey Bogart, and a portrait of the late Prince Phillip.