

12 September 2005

Gabrielle Sheshunoff
Management Services Inc.
98 San Jacinto Blvd.
Nineteenth Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

My Copy

Dear Gabby,

I assume that you have left the cool breezes of Prout's Neck behind and are now back in Austin. I apologize in not getting back to you sooner. I have been so busy since my own return from Maine that I haven't had time to write up a portrait contract for you. (It accompanies this letter).

Scott and I are delighted with the photos I took of you and grandson Alex, especially the ones I took on the last day of our photo sessions. Although there are some good ones of the both of you together in one photograph, some of the best of you and of Alex are in separate photos. Scott thinks that he will probably combine the best of two or more shots in one final portrait image.

As a rule Scott and I prefer to reach a mutual agreement with the client on a final image so that there are no surprises. This is especially true for "difficult" i.e. unphotogenic sitters. In your case, Gabby, I am asking you to trust us to provide a portrait that will please you, since it is almost certainly going to be done from multiple photo images. It will therefore be difficult to give you a clear idea of the finished work at this early stage.

We have absolutely splendid photos of you as well as several shots of young Alex that would make John Singer Sargent envious. Also, Scott is aware of certain cosmetic changes you have suggested. These will present no problem. Infact I am not at all reluctant to say that you will love what Scott has in mind.

Although we never did discuss the price of a double portrait, I believe you have some idea of what Scott charges. His fee for an individual portrait begins at \$35,000 plus sales tax and goes up according to portrait size and the complexity of background.

Scott plans for your portrait to measure approximately 31 inches by 36 inches (unframed size). It will thus be a rather large picture, His fee will be \$75,000 plus sales tax. Though he thinks that he will be able to finish the portrait much sooner, Scott believes that it is prudent to allow 15 months for completion and delivery. He currently has a full plate as far as portrait commissions are concerned, but he thinks that he will be able fit your project in between a couple of less pressing commission obligations. To secure your commission and for the preliminary study work to begin, Scott requires a 50% non-refundable deposit.

Scott is currently working on another double portrait:

of Kimbell Museum Founders Ben and Kay Fortson that will hang permanently in the Kimbell Museum. It's a huge honor for Scott.

Gabby, I rarely can say this, but I am promising - or better yet - guaranteeing that you will be pleased with your portrait. The photos of you and little Alex are that good. But there are simply so many excellent ones that it is going to be difficult for Scott to settle on the final image. It's a dilemma that any portrait artist would love to have.

Scott's portrait will be done from the photos I made on the last day of our photography sessions. You will be depicted sitting in a chair and young Alex will be standing next to you. The portrait will include hands. (By the way, Alex, has some of the most beguiling expressions).

So, Gabby, we have excellent material to work from. I'm simply asking you to have faith in Scott to do a portrait that you and your family will love and cherish.

Best Wishes as Always,

Stuart W. Gentling