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Post 6/6/76

# *Looking for Tradition in Presidential Portraits*

*By Maxine Cheshire*

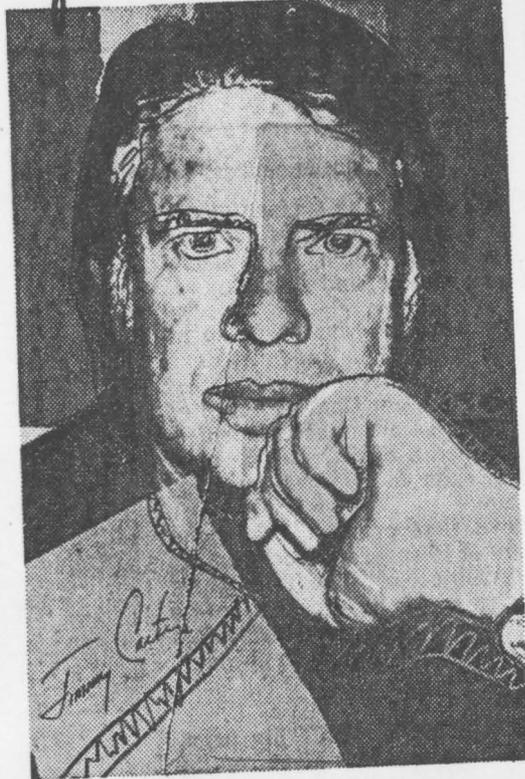
Like the last son, President Ford was particularly flattered to have been the subject of a presidential portrait.

The artist, John F. Kennedy, of his work's success was the First Lady Betty Ford who said: "Ronald loved it."

Unlike John F. Kennedy, however, "The artist never saw" when he met Hurd's portrait. His disappointment was The White House.

### Capturing The Candidates In Ink and Oil

Patrons through the ages have enlisted artists to praise them; so too, this year, with presidential candidates. Andy Warhol donated a limited edition print portraying Jimmy Carter to the Democratic cause (priced at \$1,000 each, signed by the artist and the candidate), and private sponsors in Michigan commissioned artist Paul Collins to paint an 18-foot-mural (pictured below) depicting aspects of President Ford's life.



SATURD ■

EVENT: OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESIDENT FORD DURING  
1975 ARE RELEASED AS OF 6 P.M..TODAY. INITIAL REPORTS HAD INDICATED  
RELEASE ON SUNDAY, JAN. 4.

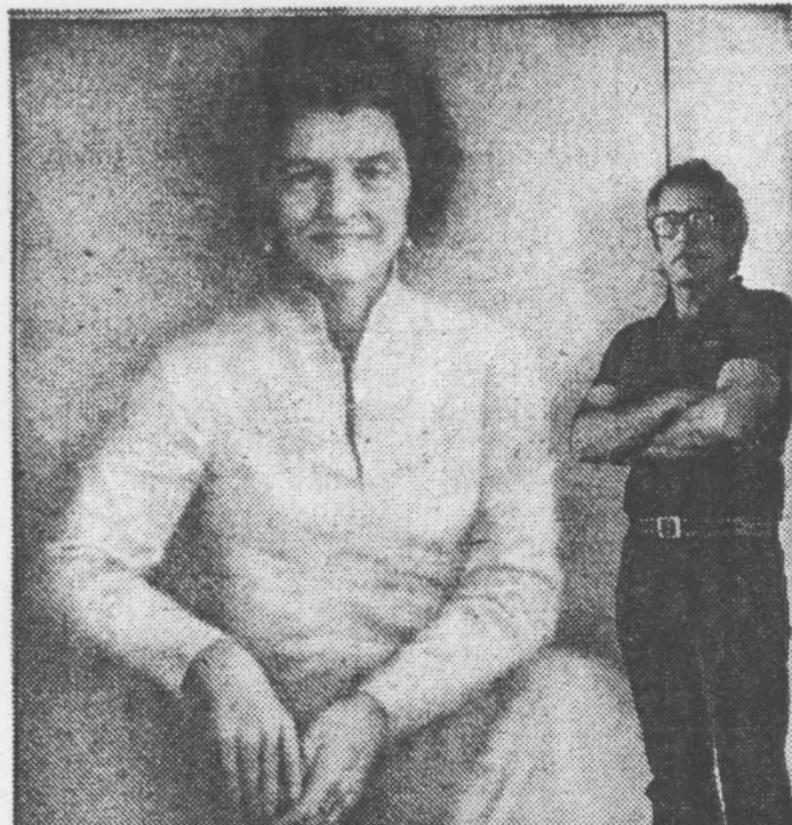
SUN ■

National Enquirer May 27, 1975

Official White House  
Portrait Painter Says . . .

***President Ford's Face  
Is a Picture of Strain,  
Worry and Anguish***

"It was a shock to watch the President at work — I'd never seen such tension before," revealed White House portrait painter John Ulbricht, 48, after observing President Ford at close hand for two days.



Grand Rapids Press  
8/2/76 - pg. 5-B

The painting lacks nobility — at least in the tortured sense of the word associated with traditional presidential portraiture — but it is Jerry Ford as he was and is.

“You’ve lost it all if you don’t capture the feeling that he is very comfortable being the president,” Collins said in describing his approach to the central image.

The Grand Rapids artist, who is building a reputation for his meticulous realism, has captured Ford’s ease in office, and more than that. He has imbued the president with humanness, and that’s harder to do than to make Warren Harding look learned. It’s also the sort of thing which Paul Collins does best.

Paul Collins, 39, has done abstracts and surrealist paintings (there are touches of it in his murals at South Middle School and Seidman Center in Grand Rapids) but he doesn’t seem to like it much.

“To me art is obscene if it has to be explained by a college professor or treats the public like a 20th Century idiot,” Collins told Magazine writer Jim Mencarelli in a recent interview.

“The world of art belongs to the artist who knows how to draw. It always has, it always will.”

Drawing, particularly of people, is Collins’ long suit. Few modern artists take such care in, say, the nuance of skin, the



# LaBelle at large

## Jerry Ford as he was and is

By Tom LaBelle

Official portraits of presidents of the United States tend to be painfully dignified, as if the subjects were bearing a

# On Photographing the President

*If the picture at right lasts for a thousand years,  
men will still say,  
"This was Arnold Newman's longest hour"*



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