

Obama through the Eyes of a Master



Neo-Classical artist Machyar Mustafa Gleunta in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, hopes to vote for Barack Obama in the 2012 election, as he launches the second term of his administration.

And yet, Machyar was asked to do this monumental portrait of Obama: oil on canvas, 70 inches wide by 60 inches height. It is a major undertaking for the artist, though not the first portrait on such a scale that Machyar has done. Four years ago, he was commissioned to do a portrait of the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, which overlooks the entry to the Andrew Young School of Policy Study in Atlanta, Georgia.

Machyar's Presidential portrait of Barack Obama promises to be an important work of art in our time. Beyond the popularity of Barack Obama is the uniqueness of this portrait. The painting embodies symbols of American genius and style while incorporating classic Greek elements. The composition is inspired by Obama's historical advent on the American political landscape and his vision for the nation. The painting shows painstaking attention to detail demonstrating the artist's aptitude and artistic competency.

Obama's evident moral discernment and sense of history challenged Machyar to draw from the depths of his own experience and to exercise his prodigious talent the creation of this portrait. The result is a work of art that provokes the viewer to ponder the President in the complexity and power of his Office. This painting presents a classic view of America's political vitality – and a personal American story. The artist's composition captures Obama's confidence balanced with his humility.

The painting is now about 50 percent complete, with all the elements in place. The final definitions and subtle nuances are being added to finish the work.

This work of art in progress generates excitement. The result of hundreds of hours of labor already—the portrait can provoke questions in the mind of the viewer, such as: will this painting of President Obama be an American icon, reminiscent of the Night Watch by Rembrandt? The election of Barack Obama

made history and this artist's rendition makes a bold statement of it.

Discipline and ideas matter. Pursuing a career in the fine arts of painting and sculpture may seem an unlikely choice for this Indonesian farm boy, but it is his destiny, dream and passion. In the process of acquiring a great deal of knowledge, Machyar has compassion for humanity.

Both Obama and the artist grew up in Indonesia and later they both spent time as human rights advocates and community organizers. Born in Aceh, Machyar lost many close relatives in the Tsunami of 2004. Separated from his family for twelve years, he looks forward to visiting them soon.

Overcoming the disadvantages of language and culture, Machyar has contributed substantially to a scholarship program at the Maine College of Art, Portland Maine. He is also working to provide some financial support to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA. A recipient of scholarships, Machyar spent two years at each of these schools where he pursued his artistic development.

Upon completion of this Presidential Portrait, Machyar hopes the work can be appreciated and receive the recognition it deserves. The painting is an artistic expression: an idealized realization of Barak Obama in his Oval office, the seat of executive power for the President of the United States of America.

For more information about artist and his current work of President-elect Barack Obama, please call (703) 994-3959. Email: machyar@mkfinearts.com; online: www.MKFineArts.com. P.O. Box 1303, Springfield, VA 22151. Attached are sample images of artist's work.