

Hi Andrew,

Here is the email you requested.

My name is Michael Blessing. I am a fine artist and portrait painter. I'm also a member of the Bozeman Montana Ron Paul Meetup group and volunteer for the Ron Paul 2008 presidential campaign.

At our meeting this afternoon an idea was tossed around of having a painted portrait done of Ron Paul along with a series of limited edition, signed art prints made of the original painting. The painting and prints could then be sold and or auctioned off as a fund raiser for the national campaign. The internet and other media could be used to make this available to prospective purchasers. We all thought this was an idea worth looking into.

What I am proposing, is to paint a portrait of Dr. Ron Paul. I paint from digital images so there is no need for Ron to use his precious time for multiple sittings. I could meet with Ron at whatever location is appropriate for a photo shoot. If existing images of Ron are of high enough quality and the right compositional content for what I have in mind, I can use those in place of a photo session.

I also do high resolution archival art prints. As a part of my business I have all the tools necessary to provide an original oil painting, to provide high resolution digital photography using Canon's Professional series EOS 1Ds Mark II camera and L series lenses. High resolution digital imaging using calibrated monitors, macintosh G5 computer and CS2 photoshop software. All printing to a Canon IPF 5000 commercial grade art photo printer, featuring 12 color pigmented inks with software controlled printing on the best printable museum grade archival papers available. The prints have a fade resistance of over 100 years.

I will provide all my time, creative energy and all materials used in the painted portrait as a contribution to the campaign. I will provide all photography and processing time as well, less any travel expenses. The cost of pigmented inks and papers for the printing process of the limited edition prints will need to be covered in some fashion, but all at cost. Shipping will need to be covered as well.

My portraits range in price from \$1,250 to over \$10,000 per painting. The time and materials for this will be completely donated to the campaign.

Listed above are logistics as I see them at this point.

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On the conceptual and creative side, I see a portrait of Ron that is different than your traditional guy in a suit sitting in front of his desk with the flag, posed with a replica of

the constitution hanging on the wall in the back ground. Kind of the fireside chat look. I envision something quite different. Something that has vibrancy and life.

I see Ron Paul as a conduit. He is the synaptic connection that is binding Americans, binding peoples with the freedoms and liberties we all deserve as human beings and so desperately want .

I see Ron Paul as liberty's champion. One who relentlessly stands up to face the power hungry wolves and their puppeteers. He meets them head on, speaking truth with courage and conviction as only a polite and patient statesman can. And yet, I sense he views himself as one of us. Anyone of us human beings participating in this thing we call life!

I see his deeply rooted principals and unwavering commitment, his studied experience and knowledge of history, as being such large parts of why his message is crossing all demographics. I also understand that the qualities making up Ron Paul as a whole, are so incredibly rare.

A painting of Ron Paul would be a composition of elements that are boiled down to the essence of what he speaks for. A reduction sauce if you will. A painting that is vibrant and alive. A painting that not only supports and portrays Ron Paul's likeness, but shares his qualities and principled values with the viewer.

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I was published three times in national and international publications in 2006. My work is shown in two different galleries, Chaparral Fine Art Gallery in Bozeman, Montana and at Art Encounter in Las Vegas Nevada. You can review my work, biography and artist statement at [www.michaelblessing.com](http://www.michaelblessing.com). Click on Gallery then click on Portraits. Click on any image and it will enlarge. You can view other images by using the arrows located in the upper right hand corner or by clicking on the enlarged image.

There are many other paintings to view on the site relating to figures, still life and landscape. Check these out under the button, "paintings" on the left hand column. These are relative to get a broader sense of my work.

I have samples of my photography, art prints and printing to send to you by mail at your request.

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Thanks Andrew for taking a look at this. Time is of the essence in all that you and evry-one is doing for Ron. If this idea has any appeal or merit, please contact me as soon as you can. There is much to do in order to make this a viable venture for the campaign.

For me, I am short on cash to donate much. I sent \$100 to the campaign a couple weeks back. It's the best I can do for now. I do however have abilities, talents, time and tools to provide something that could possibly turn into tens of thousands. I am so behind Ron's work and message.

Sincerely,  
Michael

Michael Blessing Portraits and Fine Art  
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