

Comments From The Artist Michelle Rushworth

It was a pleasure to get to know Governor and Mrs. Guinn, and a great honor to have been chosen to create this portrait. I was asked to submit a proposal in May of 2006 and I understand the selection committee met in mid June. I was notified shortly thereafter that I was one of three finalists. In August I flew to Nevada to meet with Governor and Mrs. Guinn in person, and had a very enjoyable stay at the Mansion.

In August I was told that I had been selected to create the official portrait. I was delighted to have been chosen, as I understand that over 30 proposals were considered from artists all over the country.

We did the sitting for the portrait in September. I made preliminary sketches of pose ideas and took some photographs of the Governor in the beautifully paneled den at the Mansion. The Governor and Mrs. Guinn chose the pose they wanted and I created a small color study painting in oils for their approval.

I started painting the actual portrait in December and it took about a month and a half to create. Around that same time I ordered the magnificent frame that Mrs. Guinn chose. It was hand carved overseas and took about two months to make.

Once photographs of the portrait were approved by Governor and Mrs. Guinn I made arrangements to ship the finished and framed painting to Nevada. They saw the painting for the first time at the offices of the Department of Cultural Affairs on March 8th, 2007. I was so pleased to hear the reaction of all who were in attendance at the presentation. I'm very proud of this portrait and am honored to have played a small part in recognizing the contributions that Governor Kenny C. Guinn has made to the State of Nevada.

- Michele Rushworth