



**New Trump Portrait,
First Post-Election,
Joins C-SPAN Presidents Collection**

*Painted by Chas Fagan,
Has Done Portraits of Every President*

(December 28, 2016)—C-SPAN today unveils an oil portrait of President-elect Trump, the first portrait created since he was elected. The portrait will join 44 other presidential portraits as part of C-SPAN's *American Presidents: Life Portraits* exhibit which has been touring the United States since 1999.



(Picture credit: C-SPAN and Chas Fagan.)

The Trump portrait is the latest addition to the only complete collection of American presidential oil portraits produced by one artist, renowned North Carolina painter and sculptor Chas Fagan (pronounced FAY-gun). Mr. Fagan is the painter of noted works like the Ronald Reagan statue at Reagan National Airport and the official canonization oil portrait of Mother Teresa.

Mr. Fagan dives deeply into each of the subjects he portrays in his art, to best capture their personalities in his likenesses. How did he study and prepare to make his portrait of President-Elect Trump? He tells C-SPAN:

"Beyond following the campaign and the election like everyone else, my preparation entailed gathering up a collection of photographs that could be used as reference. You'd imagine that there should be countless images out there, but the reality is that public media photographs of candidates show frozen action moments. Whereas traditional portraits attempt to capture contemplative, relaxed moments. There are innumerable images of candidates seemingly contorted in expression or gesture. In an online advertisement for an upcoming interview with Mr. Trump I came across a small still image from video. It did not have much detail, but it happened to reveal a more relaxed expression. And that was the foundation for the painting."

What was the most difficult aspect of creating the Trump portrait? Mr. Fagan tells C-SPAN:

"One of the more challenging aspects of this specific portrait was President-Elect Trump's eyes. In most photos, his eyes are in shadow and difficult to see, in part due to his distinctive brow line. But eyes are such a recognizable feature, and necessary to give a portrait warmth and personality, so I worked to give them a bit more prominence. I think the result is that we have a softer look into his face than we often get from public media photography."

Commissioned by C-SPAN in 1999, Fagan painted the presidential portraits to complement C-SPAN's Peabody Award-winning television series, *American Presidents: Life Portraits*. Here is b-roll video of Fagan explaining his process for creating presidential portraits: <https://youtu.be/6MWfsC32X9w>

Here are portraits Mr. Fagan painted for C-SPAN of the three most recent U.S. presidents:



Mr. Fagan's portraits became the centerpiece of C-SPAN touring *American Presidents Life Portraits* exhibit, which debuted in 1999 and was redesigned in 2015. It has visited many sites across the country, including presidential homes and libraries, and followed the campaign trail for the last five presidential elections, visiting debate, primary, and convention cities. The free exhibit also offers viewers the opportunity to engage with video biographies of every president and audio recordings (dating back to Pres. Theodore Roosevelt) through their smart phones.

The exhibit, with the Trump portrait, is scheduled to visit the William McKinley Presidential Library and Museum in Canton, Ohio, February 24, 2017.



About C-SPAN: Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington DC at 90.1 FM and available as an App (Android, iPhone, Blackberry); and a video- rich website offering live coverage of government events and access to the vast archive of C-SPAN programming. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/>

About Chas Fagan: Chas Fagan is an American portraitist, sculptor, and painter who was commissioned by C-SPAN in 1999 to create oil portraits of the American presidents. These portraits accompanied C-SPAN's Peabody Award-winning series, *American Presidents: Life Portraits*. Chas Fagan has created artwork for every C-SPAN history series since 1997's *Traveling Tocqueville's America*. In addition to his work for C-SPAN, Mr. Fagan has also received commissions for a variety of statues and portraits around the country, including statues of President Ronald Reagan for the Rotunda of the United States Capitol and for Ronald Reagan National Airport; a monument of President George H.W. Bush for the city of Houston; the official White House portrait in oils of First Lady Barbara Bush; a statue of astronaut Neil Armstrong for Purdue University; a sculpture of Rosa Parks for the National Cathedral; and a portrait in oils of Mother Teresa, which became the official canonization image of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A self-taught artist, Mr. Fagan grew up in Brussels, Belgium, and graduated from Yale University with a degree in Russian and East European Studies. He currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. Visit <http://www.chasfagan.com/>

C-SPAN Networks
400 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20001