



Smithsonian Institution

Dr. Richard Kurin
Acting Provost/Under Secretary for Museums & Research

December 9, 2016

Mr. Julian Marcus Raven
2524 County Route 60
Elmira NY 14901

Dear Mr. Raven:

We appreciate receiving your letter of December 7 to the Smithsonian's Board of Regents, regarding your proposal to exhibit your portrait of President-elect Trump at the National Portrait Gallery. The Board has referred your letter to me for a response.

Consistent with recent tradition, the Gallery has long planned to hang a portrait of the President-elect before his Inauguration. A portrait of Mr. Trump from the National Portrait Gallery's collection will be on display at the Gallery beginning January 13, 2017.

The decision about whether to acquire or display a work of art at the National Portrait Gallery rests in the first instance with that museum's director, curators and historians. I have spoken with Kim Sajet, director of the National Portrait Gallery, and concur with her decision to decline your offer and continue with the museum's plan to display a portrait of Mr. Trump from our collections.

Thank you for your interest in the Smithsonian and the National Portrait Gallery.

Sincerely,

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