

For release
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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

A portrait of Mrs. Ford, commissioned by the President when he was Vice President, was presented at a private party at the White House last night. A few close friends and staff members were invited.

The portrait, by American artist John Ulbricht, is done with oils on a linen canvas and will hang in the Family Quarters. The canvas measures 78" x 59", and the frame is 3" wide. The frame is classical and simple in design, done in a subdued antique gold leaf on wood.

In the painting, Mrs. Ford is seated against a background of soft green. She is wearing a pale green gown of Chinese silk embroidered with pale green chrysanthemums.

According to Ulbricht, the painting does not fit into a stylistic category, and although in muted lines and shadings is not truly impressionistic. He uses a technique in which layers on layers of oil glazes are built up over a period of time.

Ulbricht, who lives in Mallorca, has also done portraits of Picasso; Lord Mountbatten; Novelist and poet Robert Graves; the Duchess of Devonshire; and the Duchess of Alba.

Biographical material follows:

John Ulbricht was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1926. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago from 1946 until 1950, when he was awarded a grant to continue his studies abroad. For the following two years he lived in Mexico City, after which he became the assistant to the director of the Denver Art Museum in Denver, Colorado. In 1954 he moved to Europe and currently resides in the village of Galilea, Mallorca with his wife, the painter Angela von Neumann, and their two children.

He has held one-man exhibitions in London, New York, Paris, Edinburgh, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Madrid, Palma de Mallorca and other cities. His paintings are represented in numerous private collections as well as in a number of public institutions including the following: the Dallas Art Museum, the Denver Art Museum, the Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, the State University of New York at Buffalo, the Pasadena Art Museum, the London National Portrait Gallery, the La Jolla Museum of Art, the University of Texas, the University of Southern Illinois, the University of Victoria (Canada), and the University of San Francisco.