



Ralph Wolfe Cowan

248 29th Street
West Palm Beach, Florida
U.S.A. 33407
Tel. 407-655-2636 or
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ARCHIVO

*Portrait Institute
Allied Artists Association
American Portrait Society
Royal Portrait Society London
American Society of Artists*

February 13, 1992

Your Excellency,

I am sending this letter with the enclosed book, "A Personal Vision" for Your enjoyment. I've included several recent photos of portraits of President Pinochet of Chile and of His Highness President Zayed of UAE.

As Head-of-State, many public buildings will want many portraits of You, and of course, You are expected to choose the finest portrait painter You can summon to do this work. It is a wish of mine that I can be of service to You. The last page of my book gives step by step instructions of how easy I make it for all concerned.

I look forward to hearing from You and Your Staff, and particularly becoming part of the art history of Your Country.

I am in Your service,

Ralph Wolfe Cowan

REPUBLICA DE CHILE			
PRESIDENCIA			
REGISTRO Y ARCHIVO			
NR.	92/3980		
A:	26 FEB 92		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.B.E.	<input type="checkbox"/> M.L.P.	<input type="checkbox"/> P.V.S.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> M.T.O.	<input type="checkbox"/> EDEC	<input type="checkbox"/> J.R.A.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> M.Z.C.			

*Royal Portrait Painter to H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, U.A.E.
Royal Portrait Painter to H.M. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Brunei
Royal Portrait Painter to H.H. Prince Rainier III, Monaco
Royal Portrait Painter to H.M. King Hassan II, Morocco
Royal Portrait Painter to H.M. King Fahd, Saudi Arabia
Official Portrait Painter to President Augusto Pinochet, Chile*









ROYAL PORTRAIT ARTIST

THE REGAL STORY OF RALPH WOLFE COWAN

With over 2,000 portraits to his credit, Ralph Wolfe Cowan of Palm Beach, Florida is doubtless one of the nation's most prolific artists. Examine his list of commissions and a startling fact emerges: for the last quarter of a century, Ralph Wolfe Cowan has been the royal portrait artist to more reigning monarchs than any other living painter. At the young age of 53, Cowan has already painted HRM King Hassan II, HRM King Fahd, HSH Prince Rainier II, HSH Princess Grace, HRM Crown Prince Abdullah, HSH Prince Albert, HSH Princess Caroline, HSH Princess Stephanie and HM Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei. Add to these three portraits of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Carter and Reagan of the United States, President Marcos of the Phillipines and President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, and you have one of the most impressive lists of commissions in the country.

Cowan's fascinating life and his adventures in portraiture would make an interesting

book - if he had the time to write it. Fortunately, Louise Atkinson interviewed him and prepared this revealing article in which she tells how he came to enter the world of royalty and of his experiences with its kings and queens.

At age four, beginning with a portrait of his mother, Ralph Cowan knew he was destined to paint people. Before leaving Portsmouth, Virginia at the age of 16 to study at the Art Students League in New York, he had painted most of the hometown notables and copied many of the old masters - Rembrandt, Van Dyke, Rubens and Reynolds. In Manhattan, he continued these studies, copying originals at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

As a member of the 11th Airborne Division in the early 1950's, he painted 22 generals and other military dignitaries. Soon, he also began painting stage and screen celebrities. Johnny Mathis used his portrait on his first album. Later came portraits of socialites from Palm Beach, New York and

California. His clients and friends were the "who's who" of the world. He even painted Kentucky Derby winner Majestic Prince.

Cowan believes the young portrait artist must use every possible bit of ingenuity to get commissions. In 1956, he followed his own advice in arranging to paint Princess Grace. "I read that Prince Rainier and Princess Grace were in town and I wanted very much to paint the beautiful princess. First, I called dress designer Louis Estevez and borrowed his most elegant long gown. Then I called Twentieth Century Fox to see her unreleased movie, *The Swan*. Afterward, I borrowed some 'stills.' I hired a model that resembled Princess Grace and began the portrait. When the painting was finished, I had an 8 x 10 color photograph delivered to the prince's public relations man, Rupert Allen. At four o'clock that day, he arrived with Prince Rainier. The prince, a very handsome man, looked at the portrait and said, in perfect English, that he was very jealous of me. With a



RALPH WOLFE COWAN





Santiago, Marzo 19, 1992

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Señor
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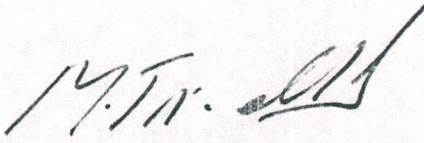
Estimado Señor:

Por encargo de S.E. el Presidente de la República, don Patricio Aylwin Azocar, tengo el agrado de acusar recibo y agradecer su carta del 13 de febrero último.

Al respecto cumpla con manifestarle que la Presidencia de la República de Chile no ha considerado un óleo.

Saluda atentamente a Ud.

CARLOS BASCUÑAN EDWARDS
Jefe de Gabinete Presidencial


MARCELO TRIVELLI OYARZUN
Asesor Presidencial

CHC/imr
c.c.: Archivo Presidencial



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*Cowan never
apologues*

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/

RALPH WOLFE COWAN



*Dream lofty dreams, and your dream you
shall become.*

*Your vision is the promise of what you shall
one day be.*

*Your idea is the prophecy of what you shall at last
unveil.*

— James Allen

*President Patricio Aylwin
embraces you with all my good wishes
Ralph Wolfe Cowan*

PORTRAIT PAINTING

“THE NOBLEST ART”

A Personal Vision

VOLUME I

Ralph Wolfe Cowan Studio

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