

Article from the Vail Trail  
Accentuating the positive  
By Erik Vienneau

People are never happy with how they look in a photo. Local portrait artist Andrea Roth-Moore promises to paint a pretty picture no matter what it takes-kind of like Cher's plastic surgeon, minus the knife.

By using multiple photographs of each client, Roth-Moore has added and subtracted everything from braces and tattoos and modified features, from shrinking that shnoz to a bleach-free whitening of those pearly whites, for some of the country's most famous personalities. Some of her clients have included former President Gerald Ford and TV star Kathie Lee Gifford.

"I can take their best hair day and combine it with their most brilliant smile," Roth-Moore says, admitting that she'd chop 10 pounds off her self-portrait.

Light years from the quick and dirty technique of the caricature-which Roth-Moore shuns because of its glorification of negative features-this Yale and Skidmore College grad eliminates the negative while accentuating the positive.

Using oil, acrylic or charcoal as a medium (depending on budget), Roth-Moore captures the essence of her clients for a price tag between \$900 to \$20,000. Her waiting list, up to a year, speaks volumes about her abilities with the brush.

A right of aristocracy in decades past, portrait painting is still alive and well-with a few minor adjustments.

"People are used to the Kodak moment," Roth-Moore says. "A portrait is like a big-screen movie theater compared to a TV screen."

Although Roth-Moore can take weeks to create a portrait, the client doesn't need to sit for more than a 10-minute interview, like the one she recently had with local philanthropist and stock market mogul Alberto Vilar.

Vilar brought his favorite photo and let Roth-Moore know what kind of look he was going for. The oil painting is scheduled to be unveiled later this year.

Those considering preserving their image for generations to come can meet Roth-Moore July 20-22 at the Riverwalk Fine Art and Sculpture show in Edwards and on occasional Saturdays at the Minturn Farmer's Market.

*Call 949-0166 for a private consultation.*