

Back in 2008, Dr. Ridpath approached me about getting jointly involved financially with a project to have Sandra Shaw prepare a bust of Ayn Rand. It took me only seconds to say yes, as I considered it an honor to be asked. A condition of being involved was that the project was to be kept absolutely confidential until the bust was finished. In 2010 when it was finished, Sandra sent me a photograph of the bust just prior to its unveiling at OCON 2010 in Las Vegas. Without seeing the bust, or knowing the price, I placed my order for one, as I knew there would be a lineup, once others saw it.

I received my bust in May of this year and it now resides in my apartment-office on top of a newly purchased bookcase that meets Sandra's recommendations for ideal viewing height and lighting. As I work at my desk, I just have to look up to see Ayn surveying what I'm doing. If she looks beyond me out the window, she has a gorgeous view of the lake. The bookcase contains only Objectivist books and CD's.

Owning Sandra's beautiful bust of Ayn Rand concretizes Ayn for me in a way that is difficult to achieve through any other medium but sculpture. I say, "Good morning" to Ayn and talk to her about what I'm doing. Occasionally, she even gives me some advice, although she mostly expects me to think for myself!

My involvement with Sandra and John with this project that has ended so successfully, thanks mostly to Sandra's artistic skills, is an experience that I will always treasure. We are all Canadians with an association to York University in Toronto that goes back many years. More importantly, we are three people who understand and appreciate in a very personal way what Ayn Rand's accomplishments mean to us and to mankind. Sandra, in particular, took on the daunting task of delivering an uncompromising work of art that will last forever as a statement of what Ayn means to her and how she saw her.

It is only fitting that the bust would come to reside here at ARI, as this is where Ayn would want to be, ever surrounded by the talented people who continue to fight so courageously for her values: values which have become their own.

I'm a businessman, not an art expert, but I do know what I like and I like this bust of Ayn Rand prepared by Sandra Shaw. If you can afford it, get one for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

Now, Mary Ann Sures, who is an art expert and needs no introduction to this audience, will tell us from Washington why she likes the bust of Ayn and of her involvement in the project.

Thank you.