

I want to thank the Ayn Rand Institute and the Ayn Rand Center for arranging this videoconference, so that we here on the East Coast can participate in this important event. And I want to thank Sandra Shaw for making this event possible.

I am proud to have been associated with this project. When I think of it, I recall the early days when Sandra was working on the small clay model, the maquette, of the bust. She sent me photos of every stage of the progress – full front, profile, three-quarter view. We conferred about small anatomical details – the width of the bridge of Ayn Rand’s nose, the distance between the end of the nostrils and the beginning of the upper lip, the fullness of the upper lip – small details but vital to achieving an accurate likeness of her subject. I saw the small adjustments Sandra made to achieve that likeness.

It was like seeing the definition of art in action: the selective re-creation of the reality of Ayn Rand’s face. And in the process, what emerged was not just a physical likeness, but also the likeness of Ayn Rand’s soul. That of a proud, fearless, resolute woman, and her unchanging reverence for the values in her life. We have seen these qualities in her work, both fiction and non-fiction. Now, we have them in another form. Thank you, Sandra. (Back to you, Yaron.)

Mary Ann Sures, Gaithersburg, MD. October 14, 2011