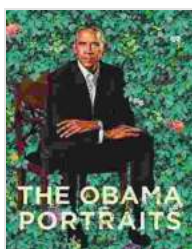


# The Obama Portraits: A Masterpiece by Richard Powell

The Obama portraits, painted by artist Kehinde Wiley and commissioned by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, are a powerful and iconic representation of the former President and First Lady. The portraits, which were unveiled in 2018, have been widely praised for their beauty, symbolism, and historical significance.

Kehinde Wiley is a Nigerian-American artist who is known for his large-scale, realistic portraits of African Americans. His work often explores themes of race, identity, and representation. Wiley was selected to paint the Obama portraits by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in 2017. He was given the task of creating two portraits, one of President Obama and one of First Lady Michelle Obama.



## The Obama Portraits by Richard J. Powell

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 48201 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 176 pages

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Wiley's portraits of the Obamas are striking in their size and detail. The portrait of President Obama depicts him seated in a chair, wearing a black suit and tie. He is surrounded by a lush backdrop of flowers and greenery. The portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama shows her standing in a flowing blue dress. She is surrounded by a backdrop of trees and flowers.

Both portraits are highly symbolic. The flowers and greenery in the background of President Obama's portrait represent hope and growth. The blue dress worn by First Lady Michelle Obama represents strength and power. The portraits together convey a sense of optimism and hope for the future.

The Obama portraits have been met with widespread praise. They have been hailed as a masterpiece by art critics and have been seen by millions of people around the world. The portraits are a powerful and iconic representation of the Obamas and their legacy. They are a reminder of their historic presidency and their commitment to progress and equality.

### **Richard Powell's Involvement**

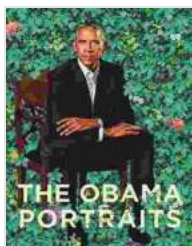
Richard Powell, a renowned art historian and curator, played a pivotal role in the conception and execution of the Obama portraits. As the director of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Powell was responsible for selecting the artist and overseeing the project.

Powell's involvement in the project was instrumental in ensuring the portraits' success. He worked closely with Wiley to develop the concept for the portraits and to select the appropriate settings and backdrops. Powell also provided valuable insights into the historical and cultural significance of the portraits.

Powell's expertise in art history and his deep understanding of the Obama presidency were essential to the success of the portraits. He helped to create a powerful and iconic work of art that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

The Obama portraits are a masterpiece by Kehinde Wiley and a testament to the power of art to inspire and unite. The portraits are a powerful and iconic representation of the Obamas and their legacy. They are a reminder of their historic presidency and their commitment to progress and equality.

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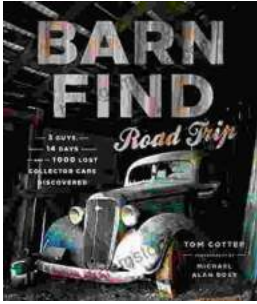


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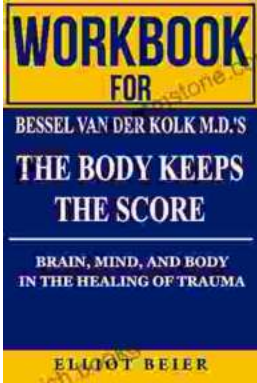
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