



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

11th December, 2019

Beka Smith: Testimonial

I'm delighted to write a testimonial for Beka Smith. As Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Strategy and Planning and former Head of the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge, I have worked extensively with Beka over the past five years on a number of projects. In 2014 I commissioned Beka to paint a portrait of my predecessor as Head of Department, Professor Dame Ann Dowling, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, to commemorate her service to this Department. I had known Beka previously from her work for Fitzwilliam College, where I am a Fellow, from which she had received four previous commissions. As retiring Head of Department, I chose Beka to paint my portrait this year, which gave me an even deeper understanding and insight into the quality of her work.

Beka is clearly an artist of outstanding ability. Her portraits of both myself and Professor Dowling are simply stunning, and we are both delighted with the results. Beka's attention to detail is extraordinary, and I was particularly impressed by the care and dedication with which she approaches her work. She is clearly a perfectionist and cares passionately about her work. Her approach to both projects was highly professional, and we were both fully informed of the progress of the work throughout. Both portraits were delivered on time and within budget.

Artistic ability aside, Beka is a very personable young woman, who is extremely easy to work and communicate with. She made both me and Dame Ann feel completely comfortable throughout the entire project, and we both developed a close bond with Beka over the period of the work. Personally, I could not have expected more from either commissions and I would recommend Beka to anyone.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you require further information on Beka's work for either the Department of Engineering or Fitzwilliam College.

Yours faithfully,

Professor David Cardwell
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning)

The Old Schools
Trinity Lane
Cambridge CB2 1TN

Tel: + 44 (0) (1223) 765692

Fax: + 44 (0) (1223) 765693

Email: David.Cardwell@admin.cam.ac.uk

www.cam.ac.uk