

Trump's unlikely to unveil Obama's White House portrait. Here's a look back at a tradition that may be on its way out

The news on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's White House may not be hosting a ceremonial unveiling of former President Barack Obama's official White House portrait raised concern that what has for decades been one of the most lighthearted interactions between presidents, regardless of party, is no more.

Since Washington, be they seated or standing or posed with a smile or a **stern visage**, every president has been painted in portraiture to be hung in the White House.

stern 严厉的; 认真的

visage 面容; 相貌

Sittings for the work almost always occur after the first couple has left the White House. Thus, unveiling events happen under the leadership of the following president and first lady.

Often, **acrimony** from a difficult campaign or opposing political views are set aside as the two couples take the riser in the East Room for respectful remarks.

acrimony 尖刻; 严厉

When the Bushes hosted the Reagans for their unveiling, Bush joked that when the announcer at the event said, "Mr. President, " Bush almost automatically went to stand in the back of the room, as he had done for the previous eight years as Reagan's vice president. For his part, Reagan, at the 1989 event, expressed his gratitude upon returning to the White House.

The same sentiments were expressed years later by George W. Bush, whose return with wife Laura Bush was **curated** with great care by Michelle Obama. During the ceremonial unveiling, Barack Obama recounted in his speech that Bush was the first person he called when he learned in 2011 that American forces had killed Osama bin Laden.

curate 展出; 操持

Acknowledging the Washington portrait Dolley Madison had saved from the fire, Bush in his remarks that day said, "Now, Michelle, " pointing to his painting, "if anything happens, there's your man."