

THE L. RON HUBBARD PORTRAIT

history

Artist: Ingo Swann
143 Sullivan St.
New York, N.Y. 10012
Clear 2231

Size: 52" x 72"

Materials: Oil and platinum leaf on double-primed Belgian Linan.
Sealing varnish and protectors not applied at this date (February 1971).

Executed between October 1970 and February 1971.

The artist chose star-fields to background the Founder of Scientology for several reasons, most of which he thinks Scientologists will understand. The particular star-fields within the constellations of Auriga, Orion and Taurus were selected for their historical interest, their visual beauty and because almost everyone, Scientologist or not, thrills to the future call of names like "The Pleiades", "The Hyades" or "Betelgeuse", and especially "the rest of the Milky Way."

As seen from Earth, the Milky Way, our native galaxy, swings up and crosses the Celestial Equator (the red and blue band), entering the constellation Auriga at the Summer Solstice (the yellow line). This is the outer edge of the galaxy, and is only partly pictured in the portrait.

Near Ron's head to his right is the pale yellow, 2nd magnitude star, Bellatrix, in Orion. Further right is the famous orange star, Betelgeuse, and between the two, the binary star, Meissa. The constellation Orion, extending on both sides of the Celestial Equator, is visible in every part of the globe, and has been admired in all historic ages as the most strikingly brilliant of the stellar groups.

Above Ron's head is the warm, pale rose, first degree magnitude star called Aldebaran, nestling near the interesting star-grouping named The Hyades. These beautiful stars, along with The Pleiades, comprise the astonishing beauty of the constellation Taurus. To the upper right, outside the platinum circle, are The Pleiades, a grouping of nine stars: Pleione, Atlas, Alcyone, Maia, Asterope, Taygeta, Celaeno, Electra and Merope. These have everywhere been among the most noted Star-groups in the history, poetry and mythology of the star-fields.

At the top middle of the painting are the interesting, but less brilliant, stars Iota Aurigae, Zeta Persei. And at the right

upper edge, the star Atik. At the fringe of the Milky Way, just inside the circle, is the star El Nath and outside, embedded within the Milky Way, Theta Aurigae at the far upper left.

The positions of the stars are based on recent (1969) photographs of star-fields issued by the Smithsonian Institute, but the artist, after familiarizing himself, has taken certain liberties in order to capture the essence and feeling of space within the confines of a static rectangle of canvas. This required manipulations of compositional factors not generally taught today in American schools.

Near Ron's left is the symbol for Theta, and the radiating lines represent to the artist Theta movement in MEST or, perhaps, the ability to postulate. This need not be taken as an evaluation, however, and the radiacles could carry in words any of Ron's many discoveries. Even so, the foundation of the universe rests on ARC and Be Do Have and these major triangles are pictured. "Communication is the key to the Universe" was heard by the artist on Ron's tapes while a student on the Briefing Course, and is perhaps the most important words ever uttered.

The circle framing the portrait itself is inlaid with platinum leaf and the face was taken from the familiar self-portrait of Ron.

And, of course, the planet below is Earth with the sun just setting. But never mind, we are just in time, thanks to Ron.

Very sincerely to all who view this rendering,

Ingo Swann
February 1971