

Portrait results in sales, gallery show

OBAMA

From B1

downtown Ventura and parked in front of Ben & Jerry's. He took out his brushes, paint and a half-finished portrait of Obama that was beckoning for attention amid the electrifying vibe of Election Day.

"It was just like all the reactions and everybody," Jacobs said, struggling to find words to explain his feelings that morning. "Everything together, it was like the energy in the air. Just everybody, the whole day it was just peaceful. Everybody just seemed happy."

As he painted, passers-by made an assortment of comments, some good, others not so much.

"Obama!" an excited man yelled from a passing car.

One man walked past and stopped to invite him to bring the portrait to the Sylvia White Gallery that night. Jacobs agreed.

As darkness took hold, he packed the painting into a bag and headed for the gallery. Once inside, however, he couldn't find the man who'd invited him. "I had it there in a bag, and every-



Dana Rene Bowler / Star staff

Venturan Scott Jacobs paints a portrait of Barack Obama on Main Street in Ventura on Election Day.

one was looking at me like, who is this guy?" he said.

Someone then motioned to the mysterious-looking sack and asked to see it.

"I took it out and everybody was saying: 'How much for it? How much for it?' And they were handing me cards," Jacobs said.

So will he sell the portrait?

"If I was to sell it," he said, "it would probably be for \$100,000. It means the world to me. I don't know. I don't want

to part with it, I guess because I can't go back in time and do it again."

In the days since Nov. 4, he's been interviewed by three newspapers. His Obama portrait is now going on T-shirts created by the Greene Label clothing company in Los Angeles, and a limited number of reproductions and posters are selling out.

The portrait will be on display and for sale at San Buenaventura Artists Union from

5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 22. The show, called "The Election Collection," will involve 30 artists "but we'll be featuring him," said Gallery Director Dona Wieckowski.

The T-shirts, posters and reproductions also will be available for purchase.

"When I saw the picture," Wieckowski said, "it just affected me."

Wieckowski lived in Montgomery, Ala., during the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, and the portrait reminded her of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Seeing Martin Luther King up talking and then to see the same kind of effect that Scott is painting with that arm up in the air and the visionary look on his face, it was just heart-warming and exciting," she said.

What also intrigued her about Jacobs was that he boldly stood on the street and "he met with approval and disapproval for what he was doing. I thought it was interesting that people would walk by and say something not nice. But art speaks to people in many different ways."