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Gilbert Stuart: Historian in Oils

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3. Mrs. Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, sat for her portrait by Gilbert Stuart as did most of the prominent persons of the day. Stuart had decided opinions about how portraits should be painted and was particularly resentful of any suggestion that he try to make his women sitters more attractive than they were. He developed new techniques of handling paint and was noteworthy for his ability to render lifelike faces. (56-851)

Photograph courtesy U. S. National Gallery of Art