



## Obama Gets First 3-D-Printed Presidential Portrait



*Guenter Waibel / Smithsonian Institution*

By Tanya Lewis, *Live Science*

**TO HIS LIST OF FIRSTS**, Barack Obama can add that he was the first U.S. President to have himself scanned and 3-D printed.

Obama's 3-D-printed bust and mold of his face were on display Wednesday (June 18) at the first-ever White House Maker Faire, a celebration of students and entrepreneurs who are using technology to create new products and businesses, according to the Smithsonian Institution.

A team of Smithsonian 3-D digital-imaging specialists scanned the president earlier this year. They used

the University of Southern California's Light Stage face scanner to capture Obama's face in high resolution, and handheld 3-D scanners and SLR cameras to create a reconstruction of his bust.

Next, experts in 3-D graphics at the software company Autodesk produced high-resolution models, which were printed using 3-D Systems' selective laser sintering printers.

The scans and printed models will become part of a collection at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, which showcases multiple images of each president. The 3D portraits will be added to the museum's current collection of

works representing Obama.

The Smithsonian launched a 3-D scanning and imaging program called Smithsonian X 3-D in 2013, to make its museum collections and scientific specimens more widely available to researchers.

The Smithsonian X 3-D collection includes models of the Wright Flyer, a canard biplane that was the first successful heavier-than-air powered aircraft built by the Wright brothers in 1903; the remnants of supernova Cassiopeia A; a whale fossil; and a sixth-century Buddha statue. These objects are available online and anyone with a 3-D printer can print them on a 3-D printer.