

## Making Caricatures with Morphing

The talent of a caricaturist is important when using traditional media such as pencil and paper. Since traditional media are not interactive, caricaturists must complete the caricatures in their minds before starting to draw. Since this ability does not exist in most people, it has always been considered some sort of magical talent of a gifted few.

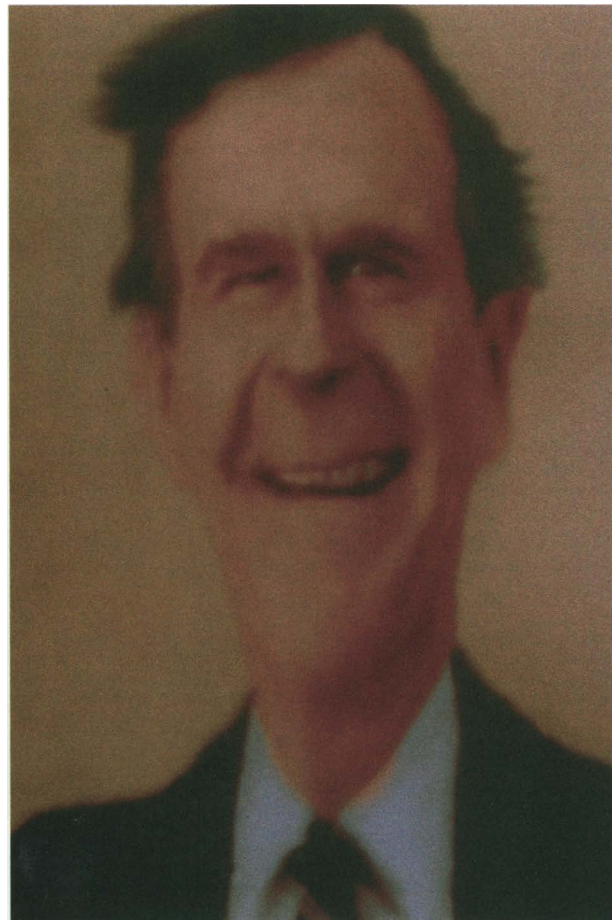
I have noticed that when using an interactive morphing tool, there is no need to have the special talent of a caricaturist. Based on my experience as a professional caricaturist, I have developed a procedure to make caricatures from photographs by using morphing tools. With this method, people need only have the ability to recognize others from their caricatures. Judging from the popularity of caricatures, I expect that most human beings have this ability.

### Procedure for Making Caricatures

Use an extremely simple template. Thinking it will give them greater control, most people, when using morphing tools, tend to start with complicated templates. However, in this case less is more. The templates should be extremely simple and they should include only the essential features of the face: nose, eyes, mouth, and outline.

- 2 Exaggerate only one feature at a time. Concentrating on only one feature forces the caricaturist to understand its importance relative to the face.
- 3 If exaggeration creates a likeness, continue to exaggerate. If it does not create a likeness, make the exaggeration in the opposite direction. If neither direction gives a likeness, return the feature to its original position.
- 4 Start again with another feature until satisfied with the result.

In this work, I am proposing a simple procedure for making caricatures. I believe that anybody who can recognize a likeness can make caricatures by using this procedure. I made the caricatures of six presidents and many other people following this procedure. To further enhance the results, I created a painted look by smudging the images in Photoshop. The figure shows the caricature of President George Bush. The photograph I based this caricature on is a 417x460 greyscale image, which I obtained from the Presidential Portraits Web page of the Library of Congress.



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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to **Quintin King** for developing the morphing program. I also would like to thank both **Donald H. House** and **John Ferguson** for their helpful suggestions.