

Picture this Sir Ian unveiled



Another day, another international superstar unveiling a picture of themselves at the National Portrait Gallery in London, writes *Fiachra Gibbons*.

With the gallery breaking records for its Mario Testino show, in which the Peruvian photographer makes stars look like royalty and vice versa, Sir Ian McKellen (above) added a touch of much needed gravitas yesterday.

The actor, who is nominated for an Oscar for his role as Gandalf in the *Lord of the Rings*, unveiled a striking likeness of himself by the painter Clive Smith, who won the BP Portrait Award three years ago. Sir Ian, 63, who sat for Smith last year, said he was delighted with the painting. Photograph: Angus Taylor

