

HE PAINTED THE FUTURE.  
HOW DID HE KNOW?

# Chesley Bonestell:

## A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE

PRODUCED, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DOUGLASS M. STEWART JR.

Co-PRODUCED BY RON MILLER AND MELVIN SCHWETZ    ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CHRISTOPHER DARRYN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TIMOTHY BRANNING    EDITED BY KRISTINA M. HAYS AND DOUG SCOTT



Chesley Bonestell:  
A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE



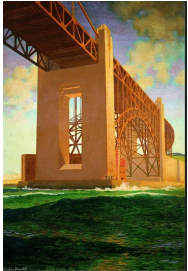
PRESS KIT  
[www.chesleybonestell.com](http://www.chesleybonestell.com)



## CHESLEY BONESTELL: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE A Feature-Length Documentary



What do the **Golden Gate Bridge**, **The Chrysler Building**, the film ***Citizen Kane***, and **America's Space Program** all have in common? They were all touched by the hand of a wry-humored and slightly cantankerous artist named **Chesley Bonestell** (1888-1986).



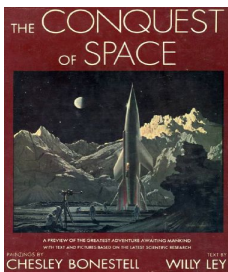
His paintings of the Golden Gate Bridge convinced doubting San Franciscans that the bridge could be built. His designs for the Chrysler Building made it an art-deco masterpiece. As a special effects matte painter, he created the legendary Xanadu Castle for Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*.



Even greater was Chesley's impact through his space art. First published in **Life Magazine** in 1944, his visions of planets and galaxies, made before the advent of powerful telescopes and satellites, sowed all the seeds necessary for one of the most revolutionary chapters of our country: the United States Space Program. His iconic "**Saturn As Seen From Titan**" became known as "the painting that launched a thousand careers." His illustrations graced the covers of countless science fiction magazines of the 1940's and 50's. Teaming up with rocket experts Willy Ley and Wernher von Braun, he co-authored a long series of influential books beginning with the best-seller, "The Conquest of Space." His evocative imagery fired the imaginations of a country looking to conquer the next frontier, and so the quest began!



Summoned by Hollywood producer George Pal, Chesley lent his talents to classics like ***Destination Moon*** and ***The War Of The Worlds***. Television requested Chesley's help with the series ***Men Into Space***. Even today, you can see his influence on filmmakers like Stanley Kubrick's ***2001: A Space Odyssey*** and many others.



***Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future*** compellingly reveals a nearly-forgotten artist whose mysterious, almost magical, ability to envision distant worlds inspired generations to reach for the stars. Often compared to a twentieth-century da Vinci, this first-ever film about Bonestell explores the life and works of an artist whose influence and timeless imagery are regarded by many as unparalleled. This documentary was produced by award-winning filmmaker Douglass M. Stewart, Jr. and Co-Produced by Ron Miller and Melvin Schuetz, authors of the Hugo Award-winning book, "**The Art of Chesley Bonestell.**"



For more information and to view a brief promotional trailer, please visit [www.chesleybonestell.com](http://www.chesleybonestell.com)

Chesley Bonestell:  
A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE

# AWARDS



**May 2018, Newport Beach, CA**



**July 2018, San Diego, CA**



**February 2019, Boston, MA**

# SCREENINGS AND FESTIVALS



Ahrya Fine Arts Theatre - August 2019



Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum - April 2019



Les Utopiales Festival de Science-Fiction - Nantes, France



Filoli Historic Trust - March 2019



SteamSpace Education Outreach - November 2018



Newport Beach Film Festival - May 2018



Seattle Museum of Flight - August 2019

# THEATRICAL SCREENINGS



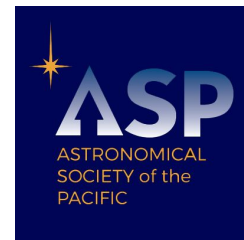
# MUSEUMS



# FESTIVALS



# OTHER IMPORTANT SCREENINGS



Chesley Bonestell:  
A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE

# MAGAZINE ARTICLES



## Sky and Telescope Sept. 2019

Six page illustrated article

## Ad Astra Spring 2019

National Space Society publication



## Filmfax Winter 2019

Cover story and seven page article

Chesley Bonestell:  
A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE

ONLINE ARTICLES



San Francisco Chronicle

VISIONS & TV  
Visionary 'space art' pioneer Chesley Bonestell celebrated in documentary  
G. Allen Johnson February 15, 2019 Updated: February 20, 2019, 9:08 am



EL CORREO

Visionary 'space art' pioneer Chesley Bonestell celebrated in documentary

Feb. 15, 2019

Architect of the Interplanetary:  
"Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future"

Apr. 26, 2019

"It's hard not to be impressed."

THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

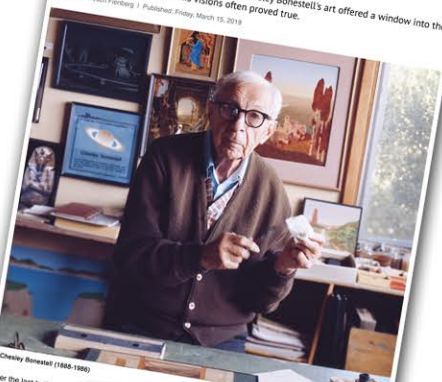
MOVIE REVIEW  
Architect of the interplanetary: "Chesley Bonestell: A Brush with the Future"  
Michael Abramson Apr 26, 2019



Documentary, not rated, 96 minutes, Jean Cocteau Cinema, 3.5 chiles  
Chances are, you've never heard of visionary space artist Chesley Bonestell, but Douglas M. Stewart Jr.'s new documentary on the prolific artist makes a strong case that you've encountered his work in some form or another. The film is a compelling chronology of Bonestell, a pioneer whose visions of worlds in the far reaches of space, and some closer to home, influenced science, culture, and historical events throughout the 20th century.  
Bonestell had a hand in creating some of the most iconic architectural monuments in the United States, helped bring classics of science-fiction cinema and literature to everlasting life.  
Bonestell (1888-1986) worked for various firms during the 1920s and 1930s, including the Chrysler Building and New York's Chrysler I family home in the 1930s.  
While his architectural career was successful, what often goes unmentioned is his work as a space artist.

Astronomy magazine

Meet Chesley Bonestell, the most important space artist you've probably never heard of  
Before spacecraft revealed our solar system, Chesley Bonestell's art offered a window into the environments of outer space. His visions often proved true.  
By Robert French February 1, 2019 | Published: Friday, March 15, 2019



Over the last half century, 50 years and more than a dozen satellites have been launched into space. We appreciate what makes each one when our neighboring

CULTURAS Y SOCIEDAD

El dibujante que nos llevó a otros mundos  
Un documental reivindica al polifacético Chesley Bonestell, padre del arte espacial y pionero que dotó de realismo a grandes clásicos de Hollywood

The Artist who Took Us to Other Worlds (Spanish)

Apr. 28, 2019

Meet Chesley Bonestell, the most important space artist you've probably never heard of

Mar. 15, 2019

"Informative, entertaining, and inspiring."

KPFK Film Club



KPFK Film Club Review: CHESLEY BONESTELL: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE, A MAGNIFICENT LACONIC CLASSIC  
The documentary "CHESLEY BONESTELL: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE" by Douglas M. Stewart Jr. is both remarkable and beautiful. It tells the story of a man who spent his life bridging the gap between science and art, and who helped shape the way we see the world.  
Working with architects like the Willis Toy Building, Bonestell's art was a blend of science and imagination. He was a pioneer in the field of space art, and his work has inspired generations of artists and scientists alike.  
The film is a beautiful tribute to a man who spent his life bridging the gap between science and art, and who helped shape the way we see the world. It is a must-watch for anyone who is interested in space exploration, art, or the history of science.

KPFK Film Club Review

Apr. 28, 2019

"Both remarkable and fascinating."

Big Screen Berkeley: "Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future"

Feb. 22, 2019

"A lovely tribute to a genuine visionary."

Berkeleyside

Big Screen Berkeley: 'Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With the Future'



Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With the Future tells the story of a trained architect who blended futurism with precise scientific detail to create some of the most inspiring (and amazingly predictive) drawings and paintings of the post-war era.  
An otherworldly name like "Chesley Bonestell" sounds like it should belong to someone, or something, living in a galaxy far, far away. In reality, it was the name of an extraordinary human who became one of the most visionary graphic artists of the 20th century — a trained architect who blended futurism with precise scientific detail to create some of the most inspiring (and amazingly predictive) drawings and paintings of the post-war era.





## **George R. R. Martin** (Author, *Game of Thrones*)

“The world of science fiction has been blessed with the contributions of many great artists as well as writers...and one of the greatest was Chesley Bonestell, the great astronomical artist, whose visions...reached the covers of many science fiction and science magazines in the 50s, 60s and 70s... I’m proud to present a documentary about the life and work of Chesley Bonestell.”

## **Ray Bradbury** (Author, *Fahrenheit 451*)

“There isn’t an artist painting today, in the science-fiction fantasy field, who didn’t start with Chesley Bonestell.”

## **Rusty Schweickart** (NASA Astronaut - Apollo 9, Skylab)

“I really wanted to see this film, and I thought it was fantastic. As I watched the history of our space program unfold in the film, it was great to see so many old friends again. I knew them all. It took me back to the time when I first read the articles in Collier’s magazine by Cornelius Ryan and Wernher von Braun on venturing out into the Final Frontier. I was a teenager, and Chesley’s illustrations just made it all seem so possible. He deserves some long-overdue credit for inspiring us all to get into space. I am really glad this movie was made.”

## **Valerie Neal** (Dep’t Chair and Curator, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum)

“Douglass Stewart and his collaborators have produced a meticulously researched documentary about Bonestell’s entire career with an emphasis on the space art and its impact on the Mercury-Gemini-Apollo generation of science-fiction readers, students, engineers, astronauts, other artists, citizens, and basically anyone interested in space exploration. The film is rich with interviews revealing Bonestell in his own words and as others knew him, and very high-resolution images of many, many of his works. It’s quite an inspiring and multifaceted tale that offers a fresh perspective on the beginnings of the Space Age.”

## **Gregory Benford** (Nebula Award-winning Science-Fiction Author and Physicist)

“The film brilliantly captures the vast range of a hard-nosed genius! His life spans the great opening-out of science and minds in the 20th century -- and here, with his vivid starscapes, Bonestell led us forward.”

## **Carl Sagan** (Astronomer and Astrophysicist)

“I didn’t know what other worlds looked like until I saw Bonestell’s paintings of the solar system.”

## **Bob Burns** (Film Historian and Cinema Memorabilia Collector)

“I’ve seen many, many documentaries, but this is the best one I’ve ever seen. I learned so much that I didn’t know at all.”

# BONUS FEATURES



As a compliment to the 96-minute version of *Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future*, there are 13 Bonus Features of various lengths that total 45 minutes of additional content. These exclusive and intriguing segments provide even more insight into the impact of Chesley Bonestell. Included are subjects such as:



**THE ELUSIVE BONESTELL 3129**  
Lick Observatory's Dr. Elinor Gates shows how she photographed the asteroid named for Chesley Bonestell.



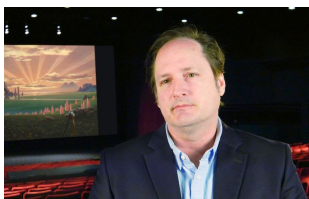
**CHESLEY'S ATOMIC BOMB PAINTINGS**  
Perspectives on Mr. Bonestell's paintings of nuclear explosions from noted science-fiction writer and nuclear physicist Gregory Benford.



**THE SOUND OF A BONESTELL PAINTING**  
Oscar-winning Sound Mixer Ben Burtt creates a special sound design for a Bonestell painting.



**THE MYSTERY OF "MARTIAN LANDSCAPE"**  
The puzzling paradox of a 1969 Bonestell painting of Mars and Mars Rover photographs taken 30 years later are discussed by Brian Day, NASA Project Manager.



**COLLISION HOLLYWOOD**  
Oscar-winning Visual Effects Supervisor Craig Barron discusses a falling out Chesley had with Hollywood during the production of *When Worlds Collide*.



**DAYS OF FUTURE PASSED**  
Chesley's paintings were far ahead of their time, but what happened when the future became the present?



**- and seven other equally fascinating segments!**

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Chesley Bonestell: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE



### FILM PARTICIPANTS

Using rare footage, vintage photographs and exclusive interviews, this film incorporates perspectives from 24 individuals who either knew Chesley Bonestell or were profoundly influenced by his work. These include Douglas Trumbull (*2001: A Space Odyssey*), *Star Wars* veterans Ben Burt, Craig Barron and Richard Edlund, astronomers David Aguilar and Lucianne Walkowicz, the late science-fiction author Ray Bradbury (*Fahrenheit 451*), and of course, Mr. Bonestell himself. To learn more about our distinguished cast, please go to:

[www.chesleybonestell.com/participants.html](http://www.chesleybonestell.com/participants.html)

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### TECHNICAL NOTES

Screen format: 1:1.85 High Definition

Sound: Stereo and Dolby 5.1

Running time: 96 minutes

Bonus Features: 13 with a total content time of 45 minutes

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For the very latest news about world-wide screenings, please visit:

Film website: [www.chesleybonestell.com](http://www.chesleybonestell.com)

To view our trailer: [www.chesleybonestell.com/trailer](http://www.chesleybonestell.com/trailer)

Facebook: @bonestellmovie

Twitter: @ckbonestell

Instagram: @chesleybonestell



***Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future***

**DMS Production Services, Inc.**

**PO Box 4617**

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