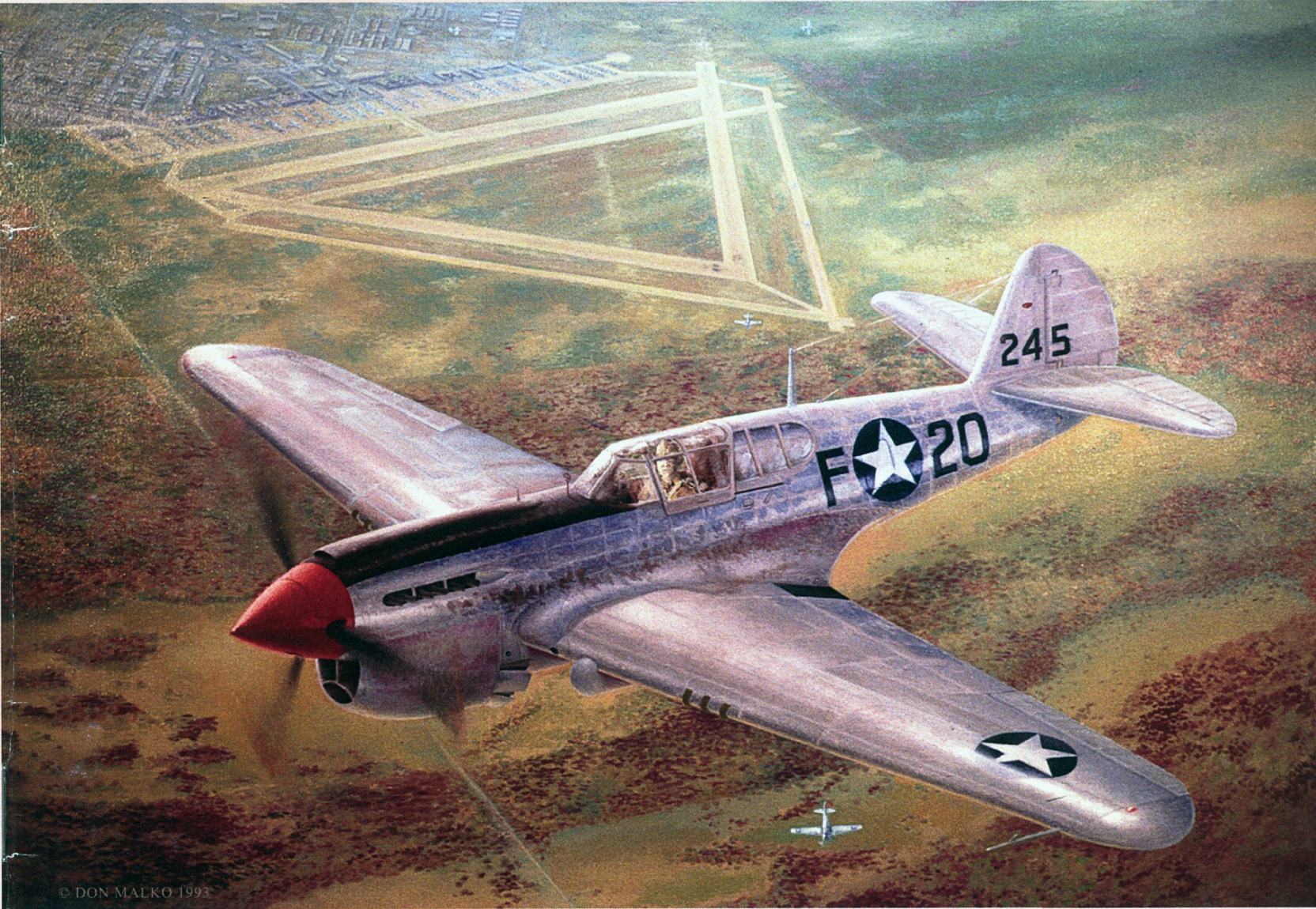


# AERO BRUSH

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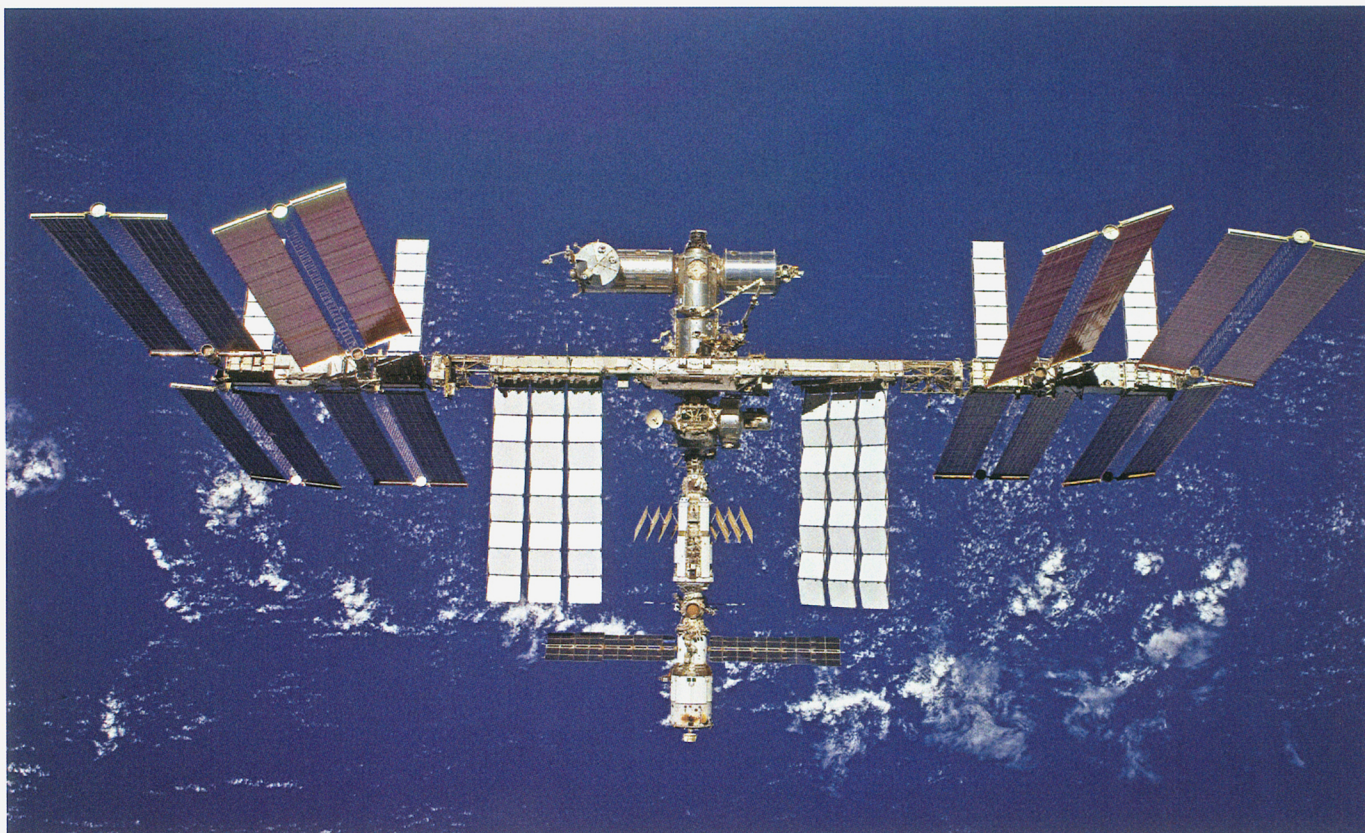


## A E R O S P A C E   A R T

DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AND PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF AEROSPACE ART

# A SPACE ARTIST'S LEGACY ORBITS THE EARTH

Mark Pestana

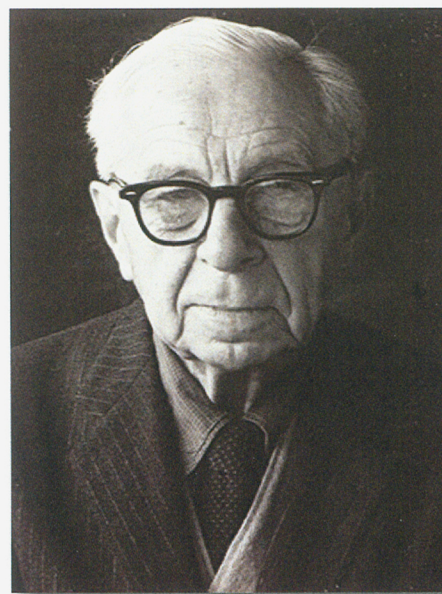


The International Space Station in Earth Orbit.

The year 2020 is a major milestone for the International Space Station (ISS). This coming November, the ISS will celebrate 20 years of continuous operation with a human crew aboard. 2020 also marks a very historic moment in the legacy of the late artist, Chesley Bonestell, who passed away in 1986 at the age of 98. An architect by education and experience, who also created matt paintings for Hollywood films, he had a hand in such notable projects as New York City's Chrysler Building, and California's Golden Gate Bridge. Known as "the Father of Space Art," Chesley used outer space, our solar system's planets and moons, and stars and galaxies as the subject matter for countless numbers of his paintings. He once said, "Space, to me, is the infinite cosmos- the ultimate mystery." He lived to see great strides in space

exploration, just like his canvasses predicted. We'll never know if Chesley ever dreamed of exploring space himself but just recently something remarkable happened. With confirmation from the NASA Johnson Space Center on March 12, 2020, The film Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future" was transmitted electronically up to the International Space Station for the "Expedition 62" crew to watch and enjoy.

Chesley was no stranger to space stations. His work with Wernher von Braun included turning von Braun's mathematical formulas and sketches into practical renderings that were featured in magazine articles like the Collier's magazine series, "Man Will Conquer Space Soon!" and books such as "Across The Space Frontier." One of



Chesley Bonestell  
(Sotheby's)

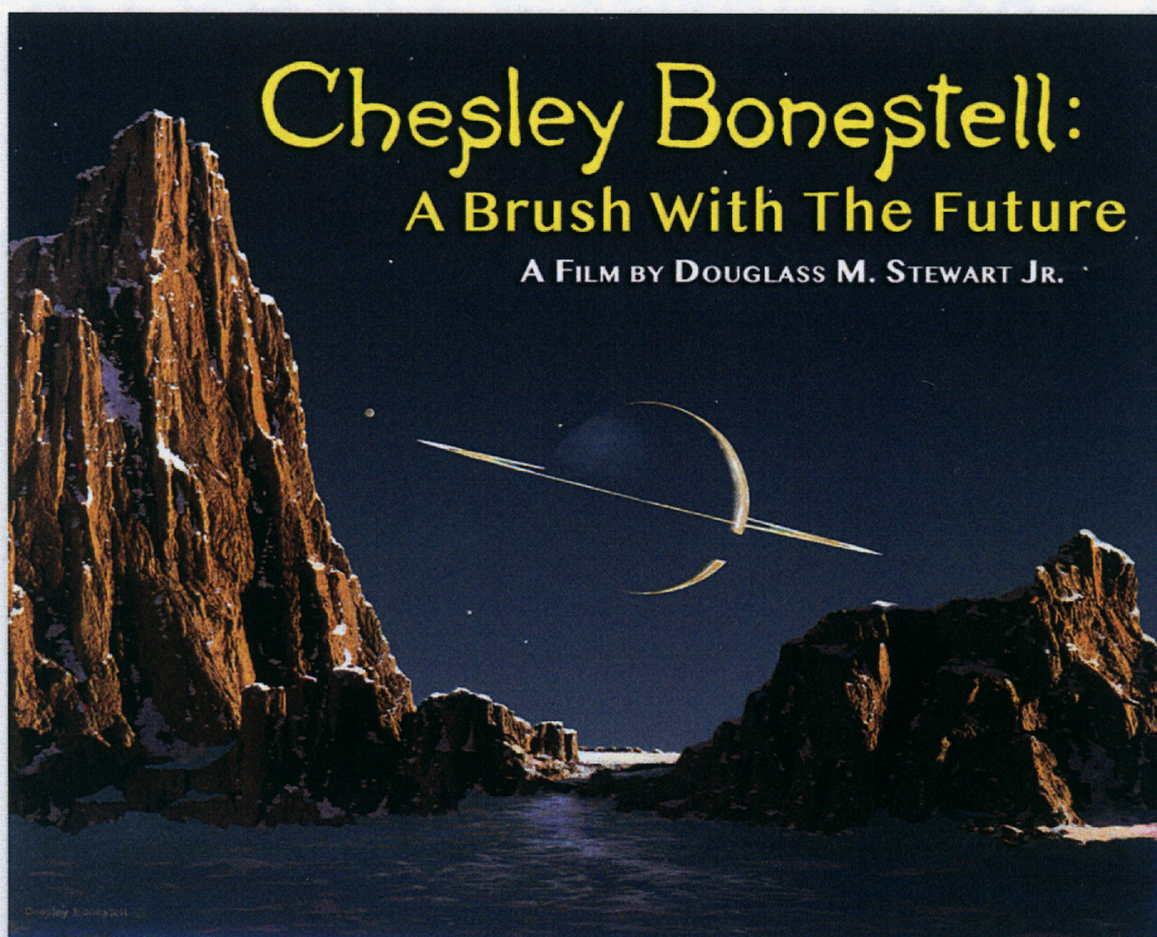
the space station designs appears in a film Chesley worked on called "Conquest of Space."

The process to get the film to space began this past February when I was the featured speaker at a monthly meeting of the Los Angeles-Las Vegas chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. I presented a lecture on my experiences in developing flight crew operations for the International Space Station. One of the attendees was Douglass M. Stewart, Jr., the producer/writer/director of the film. Doug approached me with an eager and exciting demeanor, as he cautiously broached the idea and question, "Is it possible to send this film to the ISS?"

I also expressed a cautious eagerness. I explained how my youth was sometimes spent in libraries perusing "space books," some of which were illustrated by Chesley Bonestell. My inspirations and interests in art, and my career in aerospace, are attributable to the inspiring work of Bonestell and Robert T. McCall. My aerospace book collection today includes some of the classic volumes from the 1950s and 1960s, in which assortments of wheeled space stations and lunar explorers, from visionaries like Werner von Braun and Will Ley, came alive through Bonestell's vivid paintings.

My "caution" to Doug was that I imagined many months of review boards and payload integration meetings, requiring people to brief and paperwork to sign. Could a DVD be manifested on a Russian Soyuz or a Progress cargo ship? Is there time to "throw" it aboard the upcoming SpaceX Dragon flight, the first mission to ISS in the Commercial Crew Program?

I responded, "I'll ask!" I'm fortunate to maintain a relationship with many of my former co-workers at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston. My request to a colleague was routed to a special group: The Behavioral Health and Performance Team. This team, among their various duties, supports

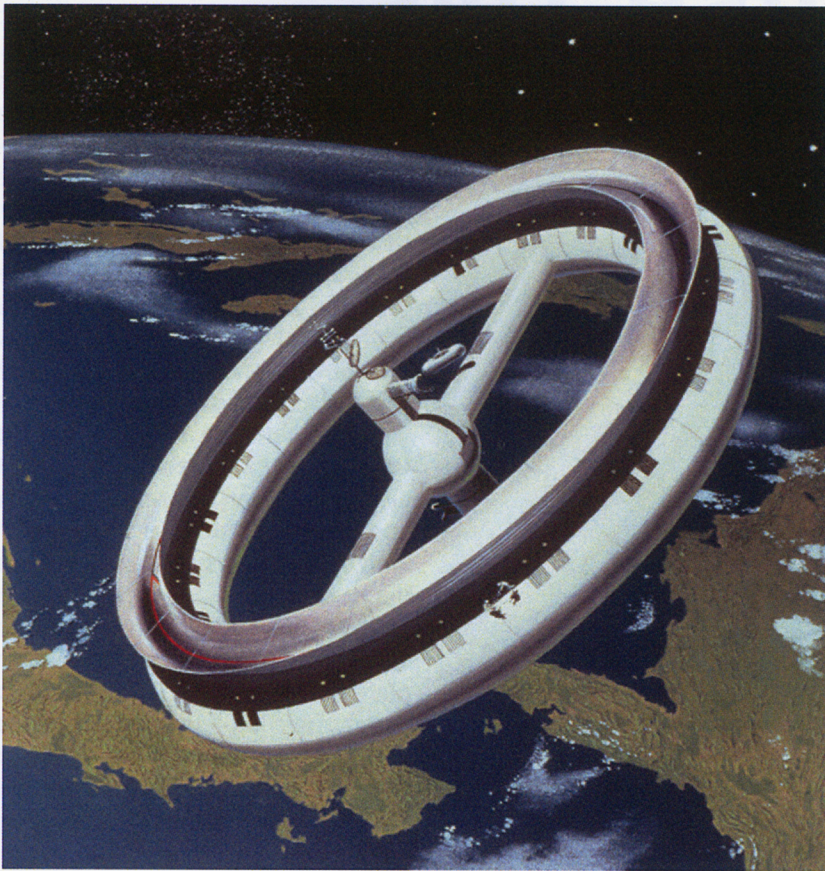


*Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future,*  
a film by Douglass M. Stewart Jr. (Poster art).

*Architect and painter Chesley Bonestell helps inspire America's space program with his mesmerizing paintings of planets and star systems.*



Mark Pestana and producer/director Douglass M. Stewart Jr.



Above: *Space Station* by Chesley Bonestell, ca. 1954.

the astronauts' leisure time activities like family teleconferences and viewing live sporting events. They also provide crews with music and films. With sometimes months between cargo deliveries and crew changes, this process is expedited by transmitting these files rather than physically transporting them. It should be noted that NASA does not specifically endorse the music or films they provide to the ISS crews. They also can't confirm if the crew has watched the film. But fingers are crossed down here on Earth that luck will be on our side and those astronauts and cosmonauts will have some time to take a look.

If only Chesley could be alive today to see how important his life's work has become in a film that now orbits 250 miles above the Earth.

Message from Mr. Douglass M. Stewart: "The Chesley Bonestell Film Team is deeply indebted to the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and to Mark Pestana for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of this film."

For viewing opportunities and contact information, visit: <http://www.chesleybonestell.com>



Left: The Expedition 62 crew poses for a playful portrait aboard the International Space Station's U.S. Destiny laboratory module. From top to bottom are, NASA Flight Engineers Andrew Morgan and Jessica Meir and Roscosmos Commander Oleg Skripochka.

