

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

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

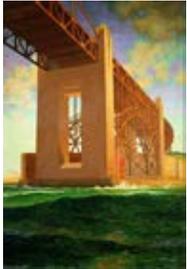




## CHESLEY BONESTELL: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE A Feature-Length Documentary



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).



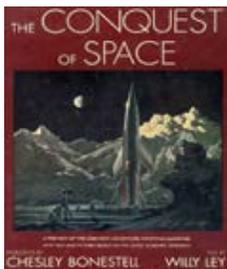
His paintings of the Golden Gate Bridge convinced doubting San Franciscans that the bridge could be built. His designs for the Chrysler Building made it an art-deco masterpiece. As a special effects matte painter, he created the legendary Xanadu Castle for Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*.



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)

## **THIS FILM IS NOW ONBOARD** **THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION!**



**The International Space Station**

Credit: NASA

The year 2020 was a major milestone for the International Space Station. It marked two decades of continuous operation with a human crew aboard. 2020 was also the year of a very historic moment in the legacy of **Chesley Bonestell** (1888-1986).

Known as “The Father of Space Art,” Chesley lived to witness great accomplishments in space exploration, just like his artwork predicted. He never got the chance to explore space himself, but something remarkable happened. On March 12, 2020, NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston confirmed that the documentary film of his life, ***Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future***, had been transmitted to the International Space Station for the “**Expedition 62**” crew to watch and enjoy. The film now resides in the ship’s library, ready for future space station visitors to experience while orbiting 260 miles above the Earth.



Credit: NASA

Expedition 62 crew members onboard the ISS: NASA astronauts Jessica Meir (upper left) and Andrew Morgan (upper right) are perched atop Russian cosmonaut Oleg Skripochka.

**To see a special video announcement, click [here](#)**

Chesley Bonestell:  
A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE

# AWARDS



**May 2018, Newport Beach, CA**



**July 2018, San Diego, CA**

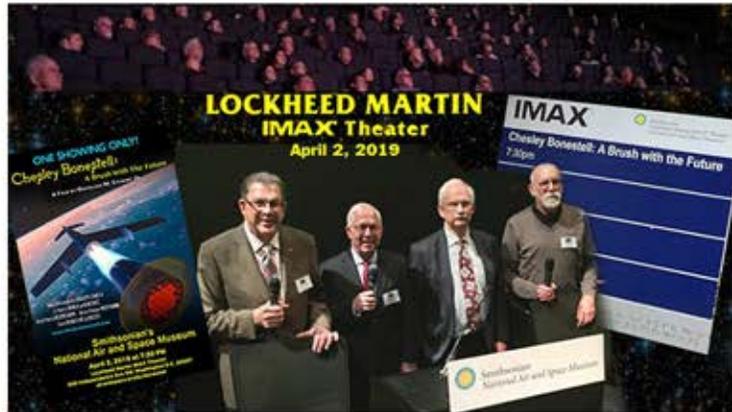


**February 2019, Boston, MA**

# 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



**Sci Fi** Summer 2021  
Acclaimed Science Fiction Magazine

**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:  
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# ONLINE ARTICLES



## San Francisco Chronicle

Visionary 'space art' pioneer Chesley Bonestell celebrated in documentary



**Visionary 'space art' pioneer Chesley Bonestell celebrated in documentary**

Feb. 15, 2019



CULTURAS Y SOCIEDAD

**El dibujante que nos llevó a otros mundos**

Un documental de reproducción de la publicación Chesley Bonestell, guionista del arte espacial y pionero del cine de ciencia ficción, nos muestra sus grandes creaciones de Hollywood.

**The Artist who Took Us to Other Worlds (Spanish)**

Apr. 28, 2019

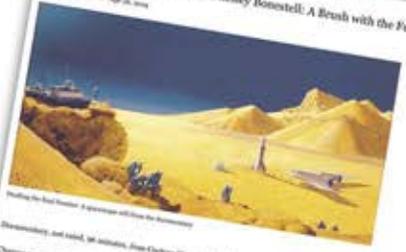
**Meet Chesley Bonestell, the most important space artist you've probably never heard of**

Mar. 15, 2019

**"Informative, entertaining, and inspiring."**

## THE SANTA FE MEXICAN

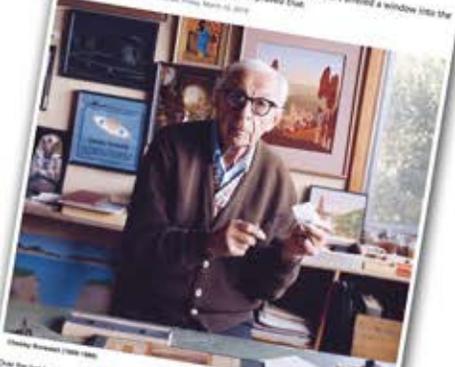
MOVIE REVIEW  
Architect of the interplanetary: "Chesley Bonestell: A Brush with the Future"



Chesley Bonestell, one of the most important space artists of the 20th century, is the subject of a new documentary. The film is a compelling chronicle of Bonestell's life, from his early days as a painter of space scenes to his later work as a space artist. The film is a must-see for anyone interested in the history of space exploration and the art of science fiction.

## Astronomy magazine

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



## 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 learned to paint with precise scientific detail to create some of the most inspiring (and amazingly predictive) drawings and paintings of the post-war era.

## KPFK Film Club

KPFK Film Club Review

**CHESLEY BONESTELL: A BRUSH WITH THE FUTURE**

Apr. 28, 2019

**"Both remarkable and fascinating."**

Chesley Bonestell was a trained architect who learned to paint with precise scientific detail to create some of the most inspiring (and amazingly predictive) drawings and paintings of the post-war era.

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

Feb. 22, 2019

**"A lovely tribute to a genuine visionary."**



## **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.”

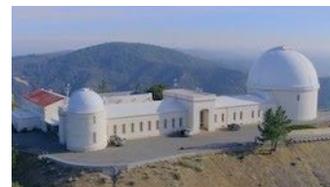
# BONUS FEATURES



As a compliment to the 96-minute version of *Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future*, there are 15 Bonus Features of various lengths that total 80 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.



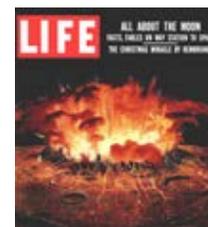
**THE MYSTERIES OF "MARTIAN LANDSCAPE"**  
The puzzling paradox of a 1969 Bonestell painting of Mars and Mars Rover photographs taken 30 years later are discussed by Brian Day, NASA Project Manager.



**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 nine 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. To learn more about our distinguished cast, which includes Mr. Bonestell himself, 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

Language: English

Subtitles: French and Spanish

Running time: 96 minutes

Bonus Features: 15 segments with a total content time of 80 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

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