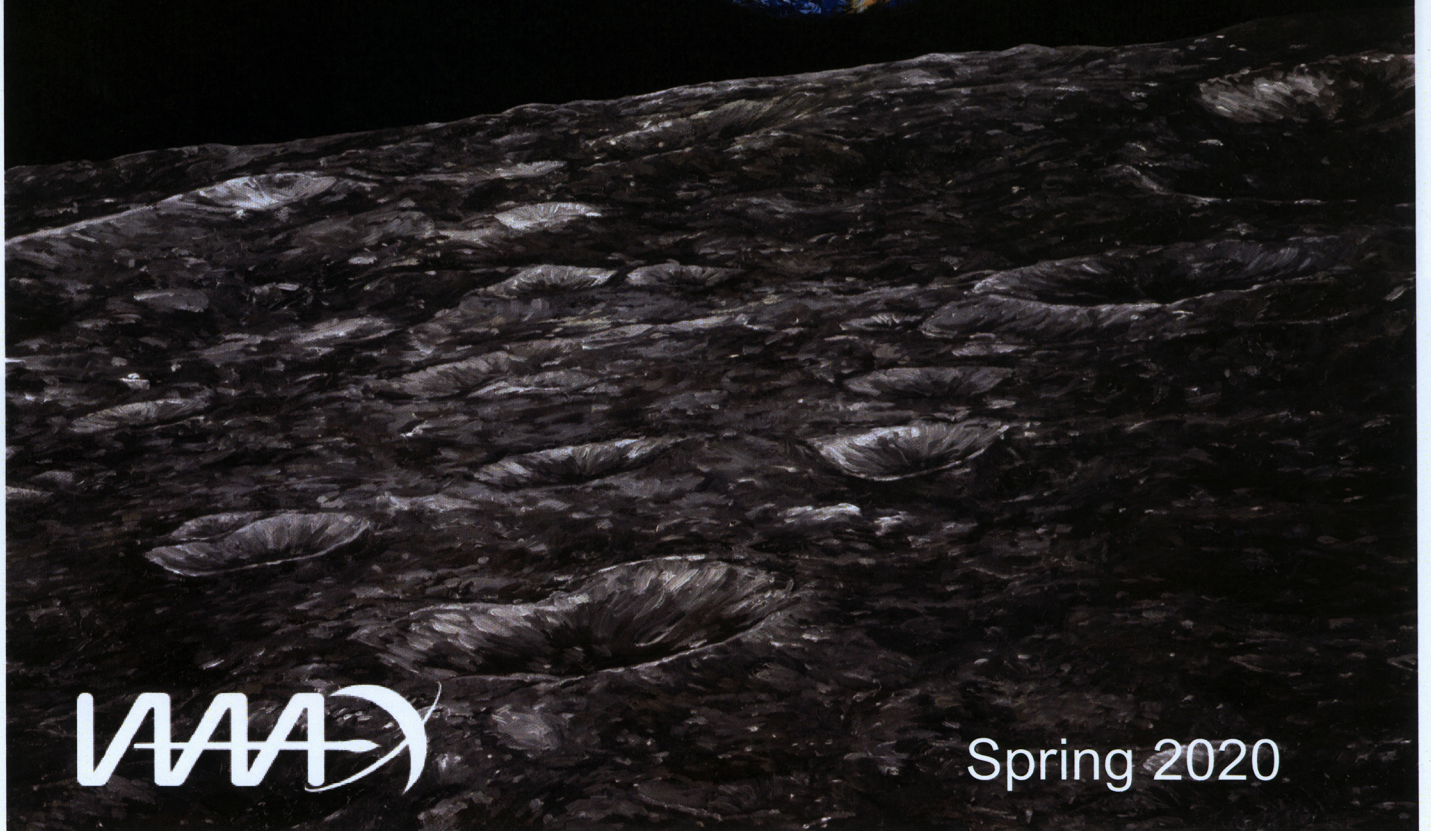


Pulsar



IAA

Spring 2020

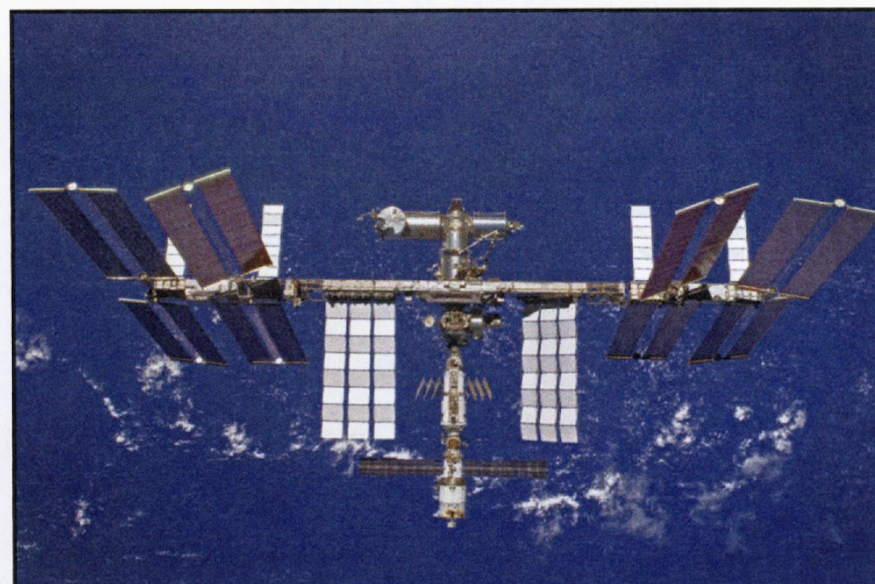
A Space Artist's Legacy Orbits the Earth

By: Mark Pestana

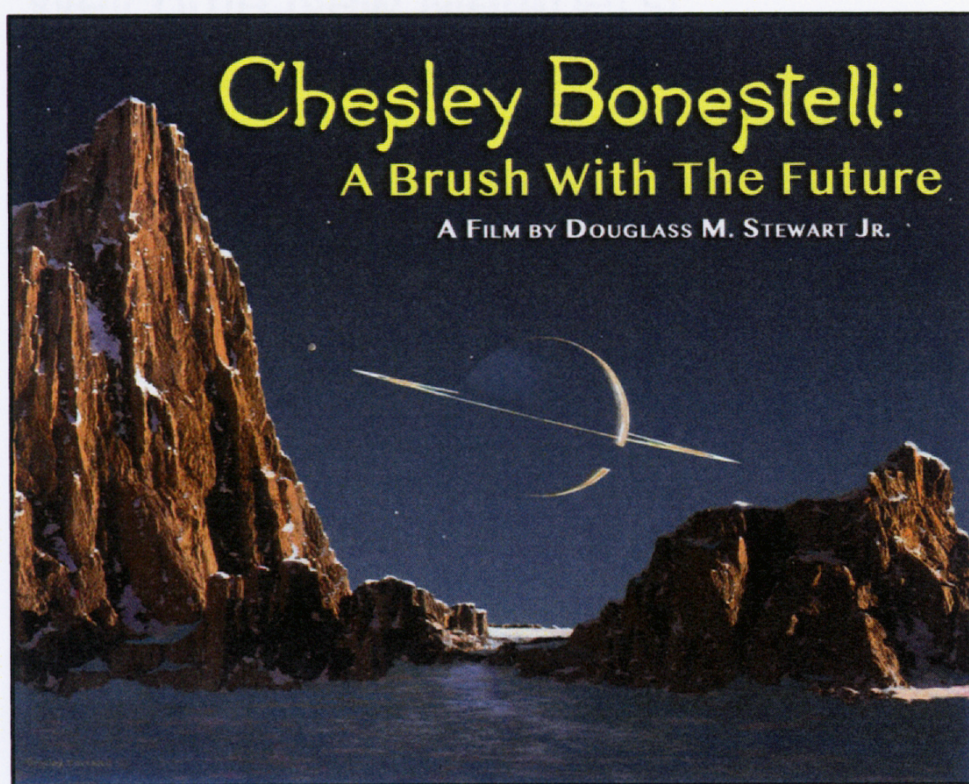
The year 2020 is a major milestone for the International Space Station (ISS). This coming November, the ISS will celebrate 20 years of continuous operation with a human crew aboard. 2020 also marks a very historic moment in the legacy of the late artist, Chesley Bonestell, who passed away in 1986 at 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 a 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 Werner 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 the space station designs appear in a film Chesley worked on called "Conquest of Space".



International Space Station



Chesley Bonestell film poster art (Bonestell Film)

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: (continued on p.7)

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 NASA 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 for the crew to enjoy?"

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 artists like Bonestell, Robert T. McCall, William K. Hartmann, and Ron Miller. In fact my aerospace book collection today includes some of the classic volumes from the 1950s and 1960s, in which assort-

ments of wheeled

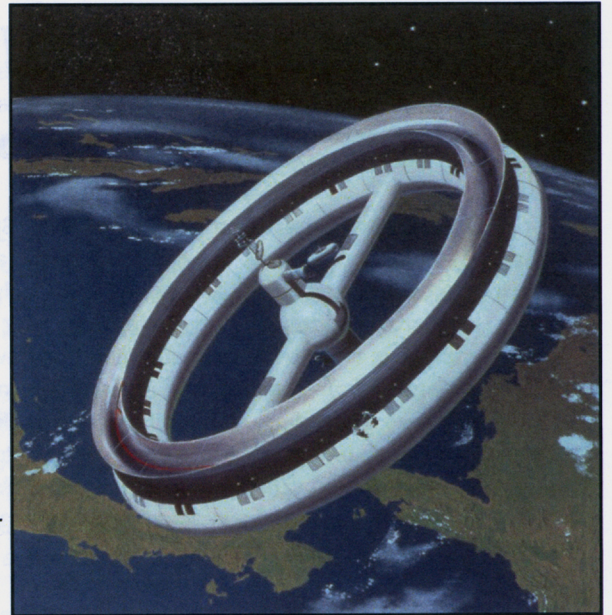


Mark Pestana and producer/director Douglass M. Stewart, Jr. (D. M. Stewart).

A Space Artist's Legacy Orbits the Earth (continued from p. 6)

The Behavioral Health and Performance Team. This team, among their various duties, supports the astronauts' leisure time activities like family teleconferences and viewing live sporting events. They also provide the 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.

The news that **Chesley Bonestell: A Brush With The Future** now circles Earth brought smiles to its Co-Producers Ron Miller and Melvin Schuetz. "I have devoted so much of my life to the works and wonders of Chesley Bonestell", said Ron, a space artist himself. "I've co-authored two books on him and this is a signature moment that just astounds me. It's incredible!" Melvin, himself a renowned Bonestell historian, agrees. "As a young boy, I became fascinated with Chesley's extraordinary art. It's wonderful that he has now been taken up into space—something that fascinated him so much. That fascination inspired him to create paintings that have encouraged others to accomplish what humanity has dreamed of for centuries—the exploration of the Final Frontier."



Bonestell space station, ca. 1954 (Bonestell Film)

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.

A message from Mr. Douglass M. Stewart, Jr.:

"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>



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. (NASA)



This is a prime example of how artwork created from IAAA workshops can transform into extraordinary exoplanetary artwork!

Thingvellir/Mars', David A. Hardy. They are examples of a fault valley or 'graben'. Pastel sketch done at IAAA workshops (left), and how I converted one into Mars (right).

