

The Art of Chesley Bonestell

By Ron Miller, Frederick C. Durant III

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"...your conception of outer space has probably been influenced by...Bonestell's surrealist paintings of other-planetary scenes, which caused a sensation when Life first published...them...His vivid imaginings...were used as the visual basis for several...science fiction movies....More than 300...works appear...Rediscover this influential artist, whose success has been credited with stoking public support for the U.S. space program..."--*Booklist*. "...will appeal to any lover of fine art."--*Fantasy & Science Fiction*.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Paper Tiger offers collections of work by two late, great fantasy illustrators. The Art of Chesley Bonestell, by Ron Miller and Frederick C. Durante, with a foreword by Sir Arthur C. Clarke, showcases more than 300 drawings by the renowned architect and space artist, from illustrations of the chief engineer's plans for the Golden Gate Bridge (for the benefit of funders); to his favorite among his paintings, The Engulfed Cathedral A Fantasy; to his pre-space-travel lunar and Martian landscapes for magazines like Galaxy and Astounding.

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From Booklist
Unless you are an experienced astronaut, your conception of outer space has probably been influenced by Chesley Bonestell's superrealist paintings of other-planetary scenes, which caused a sensation when *Life* first published some of them in 1944. His vivid imaginings, which Miller aptly characterizes as "snapshots taken by a space-traveling *National Geographic* photographer," subsequently appeared in other magazines, were collected into books and exhibited at museums and planetariums, and were used as the visual basis for several 1950s science fiction movies. Although Bonestell's renown stems entirely from his space art, the book's biographical essay reveals that he honed his precise style doing architectural renderings early in the century and that he created matte paintings used as backgrounds in several major movies, including *Citizen Kane.* More than 300 of Bonestell's works appear in the book, and if fewer but larger reproductions might have shown his art to better advantage, the opportunity the book affords to rediscover this influential artist, whose success has been credited with stoking public support for the U.S. space program, outweighs that quibble. *Gordon Flagg*
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About the Author
Ron Miller is an illustrator and author specializing in astronomical, astronautical and science-fiction subjects. His work has appeared on scores of book jackets, book interiors and in countless magazines. He has lectured on space art and space history in the USA, the UK, France, Japan and Italy, and has been on the faculty of the International Space University. His original paintings are in numerous private and public collections, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. Frederick C. Durant's career spans the entire history of modern rocketry and spaceflight. A graduate of Lehigh University, he became a commander in the US Naval reserve after serving as Director of Engineering, US Naval Air Rocket Test Station (Dover, NJ), as a flight deck officer on the aircraft carrier USS Sable, and as a Navy test pilot. From 1964 to 1980 he was Assistant Director and Head of the Astronautics Department of the National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, where he developed not only the present collection of rocket and spacecraft but also the museum's core collection of space art.

Users Review

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Charlotte Gambrel:

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