


Art of SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

APRIL 13 – JULY 29, 2012
EXHIBITION GUIDE



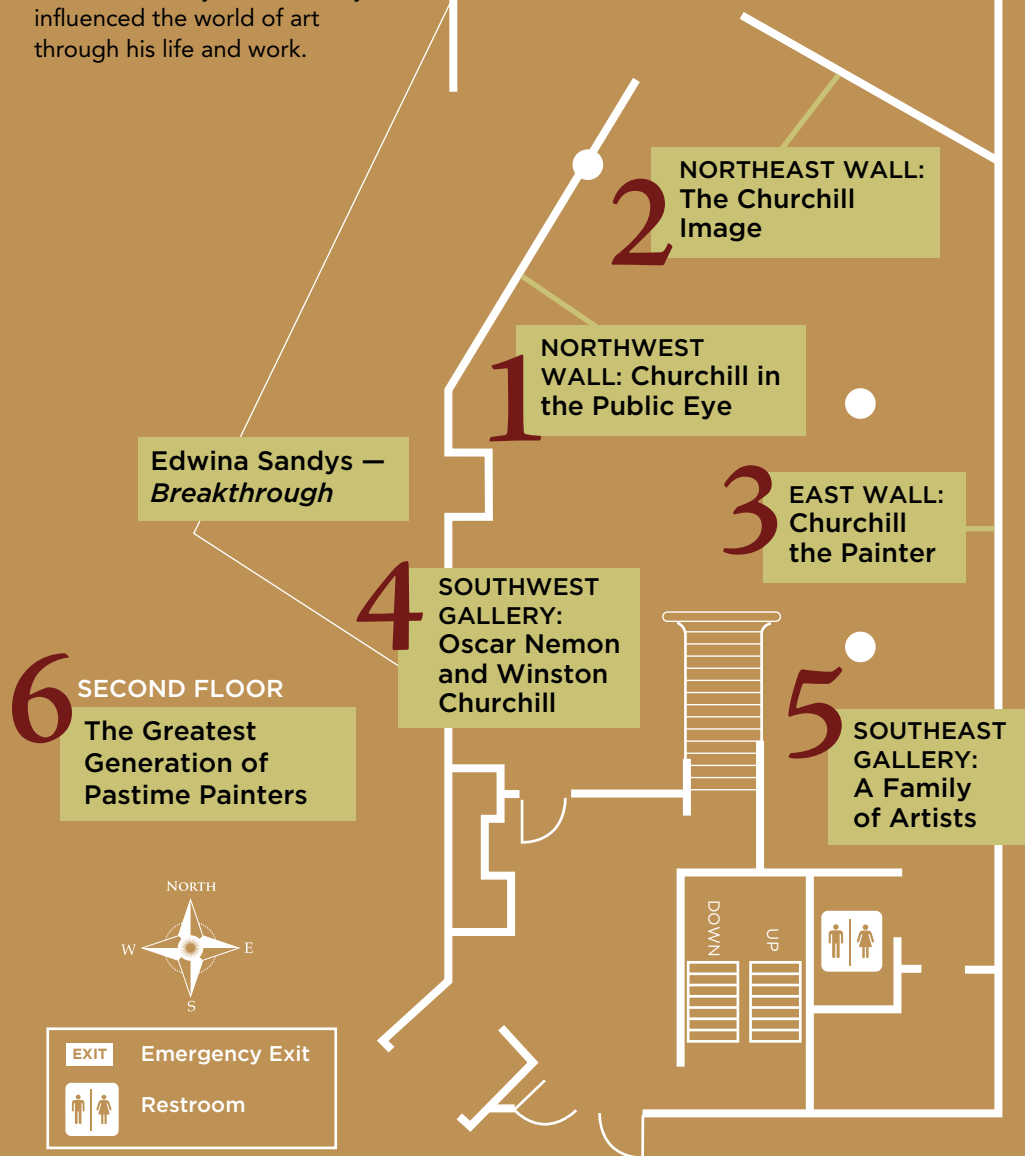
Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985
Bust of Winston Churchill
Bronze
Private Collection by arrangement
of the Estate of Oscar Nemon
Photo: Image Studios

THE TROUT MUSEUM *of* ART

MAIN LEVEL

MUSEUM MAP

Art of Sir Winston Churchill is divided into six sections that span the two floors of The Trout Museum of Art. In each section, you may experience the many ways Churchill directly and indirectly influenced the world of art through his life and work.



Art of SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL



Photo by Dave Gold

Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill, created the monumental sculpture Breakthrough for the National Churchill Museum and Memorial at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Sandys work pays homage to her grandfather, who delivered an address in 1946 called "Sinews of Peace" (also known as the "Iron Curtain Speech"), which foreshadowed the Cold War.

History has painted a portrait of Winston Churchill as an ambitious, confident, bold, brash, and sometimes flawed man. Volumes have been written about this confident statesman who led the British during World War II and inspired a nation during its "finest hour." He is remembered today — nearly five decades after his death — as a leader whose eccentricities and arrogance contributed mightily to his stubborn defiance in the face of adversity. A prolific author and speaker, Churchill wrote nearly 30 million words during his lifetime.

There remains, however, another picture to be painted of Sir Winston Churchill: the portrait of Churchill as artist and as artist's subject. At the age of forty, Churchill took up oil painting as a hobby and became a self-described "pastime painter." Throughout the rest of his life, he found solace behind an easel, even amidst the monumental pressures of his political and military career. If a picture is indeed worth a thousand words, then we must consider his own paintings as well as the many artistic depictions of Churchill when examining his multifaceted life.

The Trout Museum of Art is pleased to present *Art of Sir Winston Churchill*, which showcases his remarkable oil paintings alongside other sculptures, drawings, and paintings that capture the many faces of Sir Winston Churchill. The second floor of the exhibition features pieces by military veterans — men and women who, like Churchill, were accomplished "pastime painters." Finally, *Art of Sir Winston Churchill* includes artwork by three of Churchill's family members, which explore and expand upon the ideas and passions to which he devoted his long and remarkable life.

During World War II, when his finance minister suggested that Britain should cut funding for the arts to support the war effort, Churchill responded simply and with characteristic candor, "Then what are we fighting for?" I hope and trust that this exhibition, *Art of Sir Winston Churchill*, bears witness to the fact that the arts are something for which we, assuredly, will fight to preserve.

Timothy Riley
Executive Director, The Trout Museum of Art
April 12, 2012

1 CHURCHILL IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Few people cast as long and complex a shadow across the history of the 20th century as Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874–1965). The son of a British aristocrat and an American socialite, Churchill began his career as an officer in the British army, where his written reports on military conflicts were met with great acclaim. He rose to political and military prominence during the First World War and in this era solidified his reputation as an uncompromising firebrand and brusque, impassioned orator.



Churchill's funeral on the cover of Life magazine February 5, 1965.



Fulton (Missouri) Daily Sun-Gazette, March 5, 1946, after the famous "Iron Curtain" speech.

Minister in 1940 and deftly guided his nation through the bloodiest of the war years, inspiring troops and citizens alike through his eloquent speeches that were rebroadcast throughout the world.

Churchill remained politically active after the war and in 1946 delivered a famous speech in Fulton, Missouri, that warned of an "iron curtain which lies across Europe," foreshadowing the Cold War between democracy and communism which would plague the second half of the 20th century.

In 1953, Queen Elizabeth II invested Churchill in England's highest class of knighthood and later that year, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his "brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values." Churchill was the first person in history to be made an Honorary Citizen of the United States. Upon his death, he was given a state funeral in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Churchill was the subject of numerous depictions in the media and the arts. As with politicians and luminaries today, the character of these depictions varied wildly; some commemorative medallions and statues portray the Prime Minister in the same radiant light as the ancient Roman Caesars, while disparaging political cartoons show him as a stodgy, cigar-chomping curmudgeon.

Perhaps no depiction is more infamous than Graham Sutherland's portrait of Churchill, which was commissioned by the British Parliament in commemoration of his 80th birthday and unveiled during a televised celebration in Westminster Hall. The full-length portrait depicted an aging Churchill slumped in a chair with a glowering expression of moody silence. Absent was any indication of Churchill's indomitability, humor, and wit of legend. This was not an image of the man that saved the world from dictatorship.

In Churchill's speech that followed the unveiling, he referred to the day as "the most memorable public occasion of my life." His feelings on the portrait, however, were less enthusiastic; he called it "a remarkable example of modern art," which was his characteristically droll way of saying that he hated it. Lady Churchill was more direct: "It will never see the light of day."

Sutherland himself claims to have had no ill agenda against Churchill, and was surprised by their disdain for the portrait. After a period of public display in Parliament, it was given to Churchill and was, indeed, never seen in public again. Years later, after Sir Winston had died, Lady Churchill reportedly had the painting destroyed.

THE CHURCHILL IMAGE

2



*Graham Sutherland, British, 1903–1980,
Study for Portrait of Winston Churchill: Hand, 1954
Ink drawing on paper. Inscribed "To Lady Churchill"
On loan from Edwina Sandys*

3

CHURCHILL THE PAINTER



Winston Churchill's 1938 oil painting, Beach at Walmer.



Winston Churchill Painting at D'Urville, Churchill Archives Centre, Baroness Spencer-Churchill Papers. Reproduced by permission.

Winston Churchill began painting in 1915 at Hoe Farm in Surrey, England, soon after serving as the First Lord of the Admiralty (Secretary of the Navy) during World War I. It was a difficult time for Churchill, who had recently witnessed the catastrophic failure of a naval campaign he had designed for the Dardanelles. He retreated to his newfound hobby and discovered a passion that would remain with him for the rest of his life.

In his essay "Painting as a Pastime," written for *Strand* magazine in 1921, Churchill recounts this first experience with painting: "I have never found anything like it to take one's mind, for a spell, off grave matters." This initial encounter with a children's paint-box and — the very next day — with a complete set of oil paints allowed him to "utterly forget the past or worry about the future."

Churchill soon found that he preferred painting landscapes over portraits because, he quipped, "Trees don't talk back or criticize your work."

Churchill always described himself as an amateur or "pastime" painter. His work, however, was met with critical acclaim by some of the leading artists and art historians of Churchill's day. Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy of Art, described Churchill as "an amateur of considerable natural ability who, had he had the time to study and practice, could have held his own with most professionals, especially as a colorist." The essay "Painting as a Pastime," along with the nearly 500 oil paintings that Churchill created in his lifetime are works that speak to his power of observation, his attention to detail, and his love for natural surroundings.

Croatia-born sculptor Oscar Nemon (1906–1985) enjoyed a special artistic relationship with Winston Churchill. In 1951, Churchill and his wife first encountered Nemon at the Hotel La Mamounia in Marrakech. At this meeting, Nemon created a small terracotta bust of Churchill, which Clementine Churchill praised for its remarkable accuracy: "It represents to me my husband as I see him and as I think of him." After that, Nemon became Churchill's most favored sculptor and was recommended by him when Queen Elizabeth II commissioned a portrait of Sir Winston for Windsor Castle in 1952. Two other major works, a seated portrait of Churchill for Guildhall (1955) and a dramatic standing sculpture of Sir Winston (1970), were created by Nemon for the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons in London.

Winston Churchill had a well-deserved reputation for being impatient, irascible, and rude when sitting for portraits. Sensing his sitter's impatience, Nemon proved to be the only sculptor with the appropriate antidote for Winston's behavior; he presented Churchill with some clay and a simple directive, "If I'm going to sculpt you, then you shall sculpt me." The resulting bust of Nemon is a fine first effort and the only known sculpture made by Churchill.

OSCAR NEMON AND WINSTON CHURCHILL

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Oscar Nemon with His Portrait of Churchill and Churchill's Portrait of Him
Photograph
From the Estate of Oscar Nemon

5



Winston at Work, 1991

On loan from Barbara and Richard J. Mahoney

Edwina Sandys, daughter of Duncan Sandys and Diana Churchill (Winston and Clementine's first daughter), is an award-winning painter, sculptor, illustrator, and writer whose works can be found in museums and installations around the world. She is best known for her large-scale public sculptures, which often feature highly abstracted human forms in joyful, expressive poses. She shares Sir Winston's love of bright colors, which feature prominently into her paintings. Edwina recalls watching her grandfather bring "magic to the canvas" when he became totally absorbed in a painting. Many of her works explore political and social issues as well as more intimate, personal forms of self-expression.

Winston and Clementine Churchill's second daughter, **Sarah Churchill** (1914-1982), is most remembered today as a flamboyant, scandal-prone actress and dancer who starred in several films and television shows during the 1940's and 50's. From an early age, however, she recognized her father's artistic talents and the great calm that came over him while painting and had artistic aspirations of her own. Despite her public reputation (which often embarrassed her father), a delicate early drawing by Sarah of Winston shows a daughter's admiration and love.

Winston Churchill's nephew **John Spencer-Churchill** (1909-1992) enjoyed a sporadic artistic career as a sculptor and painter of murals and frescoes. Based in the bohemian Chelsea neighborhood of London, Johnny (as he was known) was commissioned and exhibited widely in the 1950's and wrote a successful memoir, documenting his experiences in the Churchill family.

6 THE GREATEST GENERATION OF PASTIME PAINTERS



In his two terms as Prime Minister of Great Britain (1940–1945 and 1951–1955), Winston Churchill shook every corner of the globe through his leadership and uncompromising dedication to the cause of democracy and freedom. Nowhere could this influence be felt more strongly than amongst those servicemen and women who were embroiled in the military conflicts of the Churchill years.

Like Churchill, many of these veterans of World War II and the Korean War went on to find solace and joy in the challenge and excitement of creating art. All of these artists from America's "Greatest Generation" (to borrow Tom Brokaw's famous label) served the United States military before trading in their uniforms for artists' smocks, becoming accomplished "pastime painters" in their own right.

"Painting is a companion with whom one may hope to walk a great part of life's journey."

— Winston Churchill,
"Painting as a Pastime"



Charles L. Peterson, American, b. 1927
Silence
Watercolor on paper
On loan from the artist

R.E. Jelinski, American, b. 1932
End of Day - Looking for a Camp
Watercolor on tissue paper
On loan from the artist



Phil Sealy, American, b. 1926
Blue, Green, White
Watercolor on paper
On loan from the artist

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION

John Churchill, British, 1909–1992
Winston Churchill Reading
Color print, signed "To Edwina, Love Johnny"
On loan from Edwina Sandys

Sarah Churchill, British, 1914–1982
Portrait of Winston Churchill, ca. 1964
Color print
On loan from Edwina Sandys

Winston S. Churchill, British, 1874–1965
Boats at Cannes Harbour, ca. 1933
Oil on canvas
On loan from the National Churchill Museum
(Fulton, MO)

Winston S. Churchill, British, 1874–1965
Beach at Walmer, ca. 1938
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of M.S. Rau Gallery (New Orleans, LA)

Winston S. Churchill, British, 1874–1965
Pont du Gard, ca. 1935
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of M.S. Rau Gallery (New Orleans, LA)

Alfred Egerton Cooper, British, 1883–1974
Portrait of Sir Winston Churchill, 1953–1965
On loan from Susan and Clark Durant

Alfred Egerton Cooper, British, 1883–1974
Profile for Victory (Portrait of Winston Churchill),
1946
Courtesy of M.S. Rau Gallery (New Orleans, LA)

Michael Cummings, British, 1919–1997,
Who is that Kindly Chubby Little Man?, 1954
Ink drawing
Collection of Edwina Sandys

Curtis Hooper, British
Happy are the Painters
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from a private collection

Curtis Hooper, British
I Have No Fear of the Future
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from a private collection

Curtis Hooper, British
I Look to the Children
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from a private collection

Curtis Hooper, British
*I Shall Believe I am to be Preserved for Future
Things*
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from a private collection

Curtis Hooper, British
Time in the Saddle is Always Well Spent
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from a private collection

Curtis Hooper, British
Victory
Lithograph with intaglio
On loan from the La Crosse (WI) Public Library

Elsbeth Juda, British, b. 1911
*Contact Sheet Images of Churchill Sitting for
Graham Sutherland*, October 17, 1954
Photograph contact sheets (reproduced)
Courtesy of National Portrait Gallery and Victoria
and Albert Museum (London)

Falcon Nemon, British, 1941–2002
*Dwight D. Eisenhower with Oscar Nemon Bust of
Himself*
Photograph
Estate of Oscar Nemon

*Oscar Nemon with His Portrait of Churchill and
Churchill's Portrait of Him*
Photograph
Estate of Oscar Nemon

Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985
Bust of Dwight D. Eisenhower
Bronze
Private Collection by arrangement of the Estate of
Oscar Nemon

Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985
Bust of Winston Churchill
Bronze
Private Collection by arrangement of the Estate of
Oscar Nemon

Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985
Hand of Churchill
Bronze
Private Collection

Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985

Preliminary Sketch for Dwight D.

Eisenhower Bust

Pencil drawing

Estate of Oscar Nemon

Oscar Nemon, Croatian, 1906–1985

Profile Contour Dwight D. Eisenhower Bust

Cardboard

Estate of Oscar Nemon

Edwina Sandys, British, b. 1938

Breakthrough, 1991

Canvas photomechanical facsimile

On loan from the artist

Edwina Sandys, British, b. 1938

Chartwell, 1983

Color lithograph

On loan from the artist

Edwina Sandys, British, b. 1938

Romeo Revisited, 1996

Color lithograph

On loan from the artist

Edwina Sandys, British, b. 1938

Aunt Sarah

Ink on matte board

On loan from the artist

Edwina Sandys, British, b. 1938

Winston at Work, 1991

Acrylic on canvas

On loan from Barbara and Richard J. Mahoney

Graham Sutherland, British, 1903–1980

Study for Portrait of Winston Churchill: Hand, 1954

Ink drawing on paper

Inscribed "To Lady Churchill"

On loan from Edwina Sandys

Winston Churchill Painting at D'Urville

Photograph

Churchill Archives Centre

Baroness Spencer-Churchill Papers

Reproduced with permission

Churchill Toby Jug

Glazed ceramic

On loan from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kress

Churchill Toby Jug

Glazed ceramic

On loan from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kress

Victory Medallion

Mixed metal

On loan from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kress

Churchill Pound Coin

Gold

On loan from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kress

Churchill 2012 Olympic Coin

Sterling silver

On loan from Private Collection

Dwight Eisenhower 1953 Inauguration Medallion

Brass

On loan from Kris and Timothy Riley

Julius Caesar and Marcus Mettius

Gold Denarius, 44 B.C.

On loan from Lawrence University

Ottilia Buerger Collection

Vitellius

Bronze Sestertius, A.D. 69

On loan from Lawrence University

Ottilia Buerger Collection

Vespasian

Gold aureus, A.D. 79

On loan from Lawrence University

Ottilia Buerger Collection

Churchill Postage Stamp (block plate)

On loan from Kris and Timothy Riley

Churchill Postage Stamp (U.K.)

On loan from private collection



Alfred Egerton Cooper, British, 1883–1974
Portrait of Sir Winston Churchill as Knight
of Royal Order of the Garter, 1953–1965
On loan from Susan and Clark Durant

THE TROUTS AND CHURCHILL

In a meeting four years ago with the museum's board of directors, Dr. Monroe Trout recounted with enthusiasm the complete listing of the works in his staggeringly diverse art collection, which includes pieces by James Whistler, Salvador Dali, Andrea Locatelli, and Marc Chagall, among many others. Thanks to a generous gift from Sandra and Monroe Trout in 2010, this artwork now constitutes the nucleus of the permanent collection of The Trout Museum of Art.

A self-described "Churchill nut," Dr. Trout's enthusiasm and support set the stage for *Art of Sir Winston Churchill*. The board, staff, and members of The Trout Museum of Art gratefully acknowledge Dr. Monroe and Sandra Trout for their inspiration and support of this exhibition.

The Trout Museum of Art is incredibly grateful to the following individuals and institutions for their contributions to this exhibit:

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NON-MEMBERS: \$2.50

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