

# Winston Churchill

1874-1965 | British



*Riviera Scene*

*M.S. Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Painting Overview.....	4
Literature .....	6
Exhibited.....	9
Auction Comparables .....	10
Museum Comparables .....	11

Oil on canvas board | Circa 1930

Signed "Riviera Scene / W.S.C." (en verso)

Canvas: 18 1/8" high by 26 1/4" wide | 46.04 x 66.68 cm

Frame: 26 5/8" high by 34 3/4" wide by 2 5/8" deep  
67.63 x 88.27 x 6.67 cm



“

*Happy are the painters for they shall not be lonely. Light and colour, peace and hope, will keep them company to the end, or almost to the end, of the day.*

- Sir Winston Churchill

”



Immediately recognizable as one of the most important statesmen in world history, Sir Winston Churchill also pursued the art of painting for more than 40 years. This pastime resulted in an impressive collection of works that give insight into the personal life of this tremendously important man.

A particularly fine piece from the statesman's oeuvre, this work entitled *Riviera Scene* is far larger than his typical works. This landscape was painted in 1935 at the residence of Viscount Rothermere in the South of France. Rothermere, the famed leader of the *Daily Mail*, played a pivotal role in supporting Churchill's career both politically and personally. Politically, Rothermere backed Churchill's early warnings about the need for RAF rearmament in the 1930s, using the *Mail* to amplify Churchill's calls for military preparedness. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Churchill often withdrew to the French Riviera, and La Dragonnière was one of his favorite retreats.

In this stunning canvas, Churchill invites his viewer into his seaside escape. The masterful composition employs the well-balanced arrangement of a garden path and meticulously curated flora with the path serving as a visual guide, leading the viewer towards the distant trees and coastline. The interplay of heavy shadows and golden light creates a vivid yet tranquil atmosphere, capturing the heart of the Riviera as the heat of the day wanes.

Further elevated by its provenance as a gift to one of America's wealthiest men, this treasure is a remarkable find. Churchill gave *Riviera Scene* to George Huntington Hartford II, the heir to the A&P supermarket fortune and a significant patron of the arts. Later, Hartford's estate loaned the painting for public viewing, and it was featured in the distinguished People to People's *A Tribute to Winston Churchill* exhibition at the 1965 New

York World's Fair. *Riviera Scene* is signed on the back by the great Prime Minister. Churchill also left the great majority of his works unsigned, making this composition even more special.

Painting was a dominating passion for Churchill in the last half of his life. There is little evidence that he had any artistic training prior to his 40s. In fact, his wife Clementine mentioned at one point that before he began painting, Churchill had hardly visited an art museum, much less created art. Churchill first began painting following a personal and political disaster — the Dardanelles campaign in 1915. He is quoted as telling the painter Sir John Rothenstein: “If it weren't for painting, I couldn't live; I couldn't bear the strain of things.”

In 1948, Churchill was bestowed the prestigious recognition of Honorary Academician Extraordinary by the Royal Academy of Arts, where this work would later be exhibited in 1959. He painted roughly 500 works, approximately 350 of which are housed in Churchill's garden studio at Chartwell. Only a few others were given to friends and remain in private collections. ●



### PROVENANCE

Gifted by the artist to George Huntington Hartford II

Sale, Sotheby's, London 20th April 1966

Sale, Sotheby's, New York 3rd May 1973

Sale, Christie's, London 17th June 1977

Private Collection

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

### LITERATURE

David Coombs and M. Churchill, *Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings*, Dorset, 2011, C264, fig. 189, p. 103, illustrated

### EXHIBITED

*A Tribute to Winston Churchill*, 1965 World's Fair, New York



*Sir* WINSTON  
CHURCHILL

HIS LIFE AND HIS PAINTINGS



BY DAVID COOMBS WITH MINNIE CHURCHILL



FOREWORD BY MARY SOAMES

David Coombs and M. Churchill, *Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings*,  
Dorset, 2011, C264, fig. 189, p. 103, illustrated



VILLA JULIE COLLEGE LIBRARY  
STEVENSON MD 21153

*Sir* WINSTON  
CHURCHILL

His Life and His Paintings

David Coombs  
and Minnie S. Churchill

Foreword by Mary Soames



RUNNING PRESS  
PHILADELPHIA • LONDON

David Coombs and M. Churchill, *Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings*,  
Dorset, 2011, C264, fig. 189, p. 103, illustrated





Fig 187 (C 265) left  
A garden somewhere on the French Riviera.



Fig 188 (C 280) above  
A view of Monte Carlo and Monaco.



Fig 189 (C 264) left  
This painting is initialed and titled 'Riviera Scene' on the back.

C 264 (Fig. 189) Riviera Scene, 1930s, 17 1/2 x 25 1/2 in. Initialed and titled on the back, Exhibited: New York World's Fair 1965, Collections: Mr G. Huntington Hartford, Sold Sotheby's, London 20th April 1966, Sold Sotheby's, New York 3rd May 1973, \$17,000, Sold Christie's, London 17th June 1977, £11,000, Present owner unknown

C 265 (Fig. 187) A garden somewhere on the French Riviera, 1930s, 25 x 36 in. 63.5 x 91.4 cm, Unsigned, Collections: The Studio, Chartwell, The Lady Soames DBE, Inscribed on the back: 'Painted by my husband. Clementine S. Churchill.'

C 266 (Fig. 108) Lakeland Landscape near Breccles, 1930s, 24 x 20 in. 60 x 50 cm, Initialed left, Collections: Lady Spencer-Churchill, Mr Jeremy Soames

C 267 (Fig. 358) La Dragonnière, Cap Martin, 1930s, 24 x 29 1/2 in. Signed, Collections: Lady Spencer-Churchill, Sold Sotheby's Charity Auction, London 26th April 1961, Mrs A. M. Oppenheim, Sold Sotheby's 20th April 1966, £2000, Present owner unknown


David Coombs and M. Churchill, *Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings*, Dorset, 2011, C264, fig. 189, p. 103, illustrated






1965 Edition

# Your Guide to the Fair




Unisphere presented by  United States Steel

© 1961 New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation

THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANIES  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



UNISPHERE  
Presented by  United States Steel

Come to the greatest Fair of all times—the New York World's Fair—for fun, excitement and fascination. This great Fair, to beat all fairs, is the largest, most elaborate, most popular ever. So vast is this extravaganza that it would take a person about nine days to see it all. However, whether you plan to spend only one day or a whole week at the Fair, we have prepared this handy pocket guide to help you plan your trip in advance and guide you to full enjoyment while you are there.

**Dynamic Maturity**—This pavilion, sponsored by The American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association, is a grouping of galleries, gardens and exhibits devoted in large part to the secrets of successful and useful retirement.  
\*Admission: FREE.

**All-State Properties and Macy's**—Two ingenious houses, low-cost and compact, are displayed exactly as they will be constructed, ready for immediate occupancy, on sites at Montauk, Long Island, and near Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Intended as either vacation or year-round homes, they are designed for minimum housekeeping, and have such space-savers as beds that fold into walls.  
\*Admission: FREE.

**Coca-Cola**—During a 15-minute stroll, visitors pass through recreations of exotic places, including Hong Kong, a Bavarian ski lodge, a Cambodian forest and a view of Rio de Janeiro, complete with sights, sounds, climate and aromas. The American Radio Relay League has installed a superb three-position sending and receiving station that is capable of reaching all the way around the globe. The station is available for licensed operators to use and visitors to watch.  
\*Admission: FREE.

**World's Fair Pavilion**—The Hallmark Foundation will present "A Tribute to Winston Churchill," an entirely new exhibit for the 1965 season. The Pavilion, which was used for special events last season, will be completely remodeled to house the Churchill exhibit. It will consist of a 15-minute film, a collection of paintings by Churchill, a reproduction of Churchill's personal library-study at Chartwell, and an exhibition of historical photos, memorabilia, objects and text expressing the life of Winston Churchill both as a man and statesman.  
\*Admission: Small charge.

see themselves in color on monitor second floor and a glass wall television studio can be seen taking place at all times: a show taping, a rehearsal or a stage lounges, identical 15-minute sound a selection of new stereophonic history of music recording.  
\*Admission: FREE.

**American Express**—At the entrance dollars' worth of real currency on a money tree; inside, the World's Fair is on exhibit. Express and Wells Fargo Company the Wild West.  
\*Admission: FREE.

**Singer Bowl**—This open-air stadium of events—folk festivals, Judo so on. The Singer Company has the grandstand: the latest in yourself sewing projects and products.  
\*Admission: FREE.

*A Tribute to Winston Churchill, 1965 World's Fair, New York*



# AUCTION COMPARABLES

	<p>1</p> <p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Misc. Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p><b>Winston Churchill</b></p> <p>Tower of the Koutoubia Mosque SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, O.M., R.A. (1874-1965) Tower of the Koutoubia Mosquesigned oil on canvas 1943 Height 18 in.; Width 24 in. / Height 45.7 cm.; Width 61 cm. Signed Christie's London: Monday, March 1, 2021 [Lot 00009] Modern British Art Evening Sale 1,500,000 - 2,500,000 GBP (2,090,592 - 3,484,320 USD) 8,285,000 GBP Premium (11,547,038 USD)</p>
	<p>2</p> <p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p><b>Winston Churchill</b></p> <p>The goldfish pool at Chartwell oil on canvas63.5 by 76.5cm.; 25 by 30in.Executed in 1932.Catalogue NoteWe oil on canvas 1932 Height 25 in.; Width 30.1 in. / Height 63.5 cm.; Width 76.5 cm. Sotheby's London: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 [Lot 00181] Daughter of History: Mary Soames and the Legacy of Churchill 400,000 - 600,000 GBP (625,978 - 938,967 USD) 1,762,500 GBP Premium (2,758,216 USD)</p>
	<p>3</p> <p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Misc. Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p><b>Winston Churchill</b></p> <p>Scene at Marrakech SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, O.M., R.A. (1874-1965) Scene at Marrakechsigned with initi oil on canvas Circa 1935 Height 23.7 in.; Width 36.4 in. / Height 60.3 cm.; Width 92.4 cm. Signed Christie's London: Monday, March 1, 2021 [Lot 00003] Modern British Art Evening Sale 300,000 - 500,000 GBP (418,118 - 696,864 USD) 1,882,500 GBP Premium (2,623,693 USD)</p>
	<p>4</p> <p>Title Description Medium Year of Work Size Misc. Sale of Estimate Sold For</p>	<p><b>Winston Churchill</b></p> <p>The Bridge at Aix-en-Provence SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, O.M., R.A. (1874-1965) The Bridge at Aix-en-Provencesigned oil on canvas 1948 Height 22 in.; Width 28 in. / Height 55.9 cm.; Width 71.2 cm. Signed Christie's London: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 [Lot 00011] Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale 1,500,000 - 2,500,000 GBP (2,073,255 - 3,455,425 USD) 1,702,500 GBP Premium (2,353,144 USD)</p>



Winston Churchill | *Garden on Riviera*

Circa 1935

**Medium:** Oil on canvas



National Trust - Chartwell  
*Kent, England*



*M.S.  Rau*  
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

---

[msrau.com](http://msrau.com) | 504-826-8856