

# Norman Perceval Rockwell

February 3, 1894 – November 8, 1978

Rockwell's family moved to [New Rochelle](#), New York, when Norman was 21 years old. They shared a studio with the [cartoonist](#) Clyde Forsythe, who worked for *The Saturday Evening Post*. With Forsythe's help, Rockwell submitted his first successful cover painting to the *Post* in 1916, *Mother's Day Off* (published on May 20).

Ultimately, Rockwell published 321 original covers for *The Saturday Evening Post* over 47 years. His covers on the *Post* led to covers for other magazines of the day, most notably the [Literary Digest](#), the [Country Gentleman](#), [Leslie's Weekly](#), *Judge*, *Peoples Popular Monthly* and [Life magazine](#).

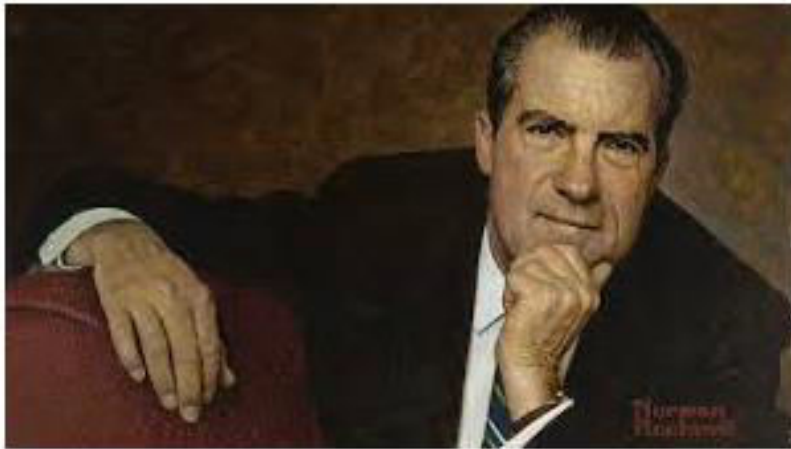
Rockwell said Nixon was the hardest man he ever painted, even though he voted for him, because of a "mean eye" and his jowls.

Artist Norman Rockwell admitted that he had intentionally flattered Nixon in this portrait. The reason he did, Rockwell said, was that Nixon's appearance was troublesomely elusive, and if he was going to err in his portrayal, he wanted it to be at least in a direction that would please the subject. Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)

Oil on canvas, 1968

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

Donated to the People of the United States of America by the Richard Nixon Foundation



**1968 Portrait Owned by the Nixon Foundation, donated to the Smithsonian Institution and shown in the Richard Nixon Presidential Library Lobby.**

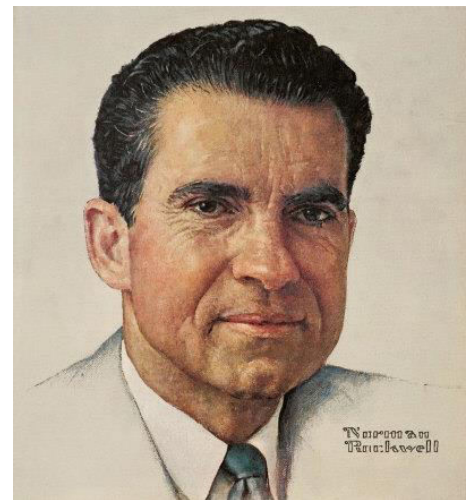
Rockwell's last painting for the *Post* was published in 1963, marking the end of a publishing relationship that had included 321 cover paintings. He spent the next 10 years painting for [Look magazine](#).



*Saying Grace*, sold at auction for \$47M. *Post* cover Nov. 24, 1951.

As he did with Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson in 1952, Norman Rockwell painted presidential contenders Nixon and Kennedy for the *Post* in 1960. Rockwell actually painted Nixon six times and after one of the later sittings he noted that Nixon looked basically the same. "Oh, he's older, sure. Aren't we all?"

The challenge was that Nixon nose. "It's hell to paint and to keep it from dominating too much." But the artist added that when "Nixon smiled, he was just about as warm and friendly as the father of two pretty daughters could be."



Right--Richard Nixon, *Post* Magazine Nov. 5, 1960.