S.S. Titanic – Captain's Last View (2015)
By Walt Wright

A round canvas is somewhat of a rare thing, simply because it serves a specific purpose. Only unique works of art require them. In my many years of painting this is my first use of a round canvas. It is also my first mixed media work. If that were not enough, it is also my first sculptured canvas creation. I feel that as artist we must learn to knock down barriers in order to release our full creativity. I can't think of a better way to share my concept of that dreadful dark early morning of April 15th, 1912 aboard the S. S. Titanic

The history of the steam ship Titanic is legendary. It requires no introduction or explanation. One of history's greatest tragedies took place during in the dark early morning hours in frigid northern waters, far from land, far from rescue. Over the years theatre and film have told this story countless times. Usually the story is told from the perspective of the passengers or from a documentary angle that recalls the structure of the ship, its engines, its incredible size, or it's lavish ornate beauty. Leave it to me to consider yet another perspective… that of the faithful Captain. According to maritime law; in the event of sinking, the captain must stay on the ship until he has seen every passenger and crew member to safety. Only then is he allowed to leave. The lives of the people are to be his greatest priority. If he can not save them he is obligated to go down with them.

Imagine being in the place of that brave captain. After having watched the last life boat pull away, knowing that the nearest rescue ship was not yet on the horizon, and no doubt realizing that there is nowhere to go but down. What a terrible sense of dread must have filled the bitter cold night air. Last remembered as being in the ship's wheelhouse moments before it was engulfed by water, I give you perhaps the last view of one of the world's most historical sea captains;

Captain Edward Smith (1850-1912) S.S. Titanic.

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