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The Art Of The Simon And Kirby Studio



Synopsis

The names Joe Simon and Jack Kirby are synonymous with comic books, and their partnership ushered in the Golden Age of comics starting in the 1940s. Together they created memorable characters such as Captain America and Sandman, invented romance comics, and raised the standard for the genres of western, crime, and horror comic books. Over the course of three decades they wrote and illustrated several hundred comics, many of which are reproduced in this oversized volume covering all aspects of their amazing career. Selected and with an introduction by Mark Evanier, the foremost authority on the work of Simon and Kirby, and an afterword by Jim Simon, son of Joe Simon, the book includes artwork photographed from the original art in Joe Simon's private archive and showcases the seminal work of Simon and Kirby and their artistry as it has never been seen before.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; First Edition edition (November 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1419711601

ISBN-13: 978-1419711602

Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.8 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,403 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Comics & Graphic Novels #25 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides #77 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Biographies & History Graphic Novels

Customer Reviews

“Reading this book is like entering the offices of Simon and Kirby and rifling through their files, scouring the slush pile, even breathing in the smoke from one of Kirby's cigars. It's a museum in miniature, and like so much else these two artists touched, it's a wonder to behold.” (PopMatters) “The book gives us fast and furious art from the early days of comics work done in an almost punklike frenzy and it's fascinating to watch Kirby just warming up for his best yet to come.” (NewYorkTimes.com)

Joe Simon (1913-2011) and Jack Kirby (1917-1994) created many of comics' most enduring super heroes, such as Captain America. Together they helped establish the visual language of comics. Mark Evanier, a writer and historian, has three Emmy Award nominations and received the Lifetime Achievement Award for animation from the Writers Guild of America. He lives in Los Angeles. Jim Simon, the son of Joe Simon, grew up amid comic book history, assisting his father first as a young boy by erasing inked art boards and later in various creative and business ventures. During this time Jim got to know many of the great comic book creators. He has published several books, including *The Comic Book Makers*, a widely praised coauthored account of Joe Simon's early days in comics; and contributed articles on the works of Simon and Kirby in books published by Marvel Comics/Entertainment, Titan Publishing, and *Alter Ego*. He has also been interviewed by *Heritage Magazine for the Intelligent Collector*, WNYC Radio, and appeared in the 2016 television movie/documentary, *Marvel's Captain America: 75 Heroic Years*. Jim Simon lives in New York with his wife and family.

Was totally disappointed that the inkers are not credited in this book. Kirby was a great penciler but half the artist without talented inkers. In many cases Kirby did not do hatch work and fine detailing. At the very least the author should've made an attempt to include the guys in credits

Of course this is important, joy-filled material, but the presentation is a miracle. Don't doubt that we are in the golden age of comics reprints. This book is beautiful. It's a high-quality original artwork orgy, packaged with love. My highest recommendation. If you think this might be your thing, yes it is worth it.

The best part of this book for me is seeing the Kirby inked pages. Not as large as IDW's actual size Artist's Editions, but cheaper and WAY more pages reproduced in a similar fashion. Originally these pages would have been done twice up with an art area about 12.5 x 18", so, if this book was actual size it would be hard to work with having this many pages. Acceptable compromise especially with the price difference.

Just a glance through this amazing volume took my breath away. It's not unlike having a collection of original art from the glory days of Joe Simon, Jack Kirby and their stable of truly gifted artists. For those unfamiliar with the groundbreaking work of Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, they created Captain America for Timely Comics (now known as Marvel) and invented the romance comic book. You

won't see their pre-World War II work for Timely (which also includes Kirby's original, mystical version of The Vision) or the DC Comics that immediately followed (The Boy Commandos, The Guardian & the Newsboy Legion, The Sandman and The Manhunter), but there is nonetheless a wealth of great comic book art contained herein. Among the artists employed by their studio were Al Williamson, Wally Wood, Jack Davis, Mort Meskin and other great talents. In their collaborations as a studio, it's often difficult to tell where one artist left off and another took over. Of course, being the perfectionist he was, "action man" Kirby often touched up the work of others to create a uniform look. The history of their years as an art team and as business partners is insightfully covered in the introduction by compiler and editor Mark Evanier. Similar to the much-pricier "Artist Editions" usually featuring one comic title by a respected artist, this fabulous compendium rates space next to the "Simon & Kirby Library" editions, particularly the "Superheroes" and "Best of Simon & Kirby" tomes. Included are all genres of stories produced by their prolific studio, the highlights for me were pages from "Stuntman," "The Fighting American," "Adventures of the Fly" and "The Double Life of Private Strong" (featuring the precursor of Captain America, Archie/MLJ Comics' The Shield). I know in my heart that I will never tire of leafing through this remarkable book or settling in for a satisfying read that recalls my childhood. Just as issue #1 of "Adventures of the Fly" seemed to jump off the comics swivel rack at my local pharmacy when I was 11-years-old, this collection produced a reverence in me that I seldom experience in my 60s. I wish for you that same euphoria. Although not from the era that many consider their heyday, this is, in Kirby's words, "Our best work at the worst time."

If you are a fan of the "the King" of comic artists this book is a must. If you are a fan of the numerous Marvel properties and want a deeper understanding of the depth of the talent behind it all, then enjoy this book. Large and in charge, the book is massive with untouched reproductions of the original art used to create numerous titles.

Fantastic book for any Kirby fan!

So much to get through with a lot of strips that were new to me. Really enjoying the detail and you can tell that Mark really loves and appreciates Jack!

A great art book for fans of Jack Kirby and Joe Simon. Fun and informative Introduction by Mark Evanier, and Jim Simon writes an interesting Afterword. Loads and loads of vintage art presented "warts and all" which gives readers an unusually honest view of how the artwork was produced.

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