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The Art And Flair Of Mary Blair (Updated Edition): An Appreciation (Disney Editions Deluxe)



Synopsis

For more than a dozen years, a soft spoken, unassuming woman dominated design at The Walt Disney Studios with a joyful creativity and exuberant color palette that stamped the look of many classic Disney animated features, including Cinderella and Peter Pan. Favorite theme park attractions, most notably the "It's A Small World" boat ride, originally created for the 1964 New York World's Fair, were also among her designs. Now the story behind one of Walt's favorite artists is celebrated in this delightful volume of whimsical art and insightful commentary. In her prime, Mary Blair was an amazingly prolific American artist who enlivened and influenced the not-so-small worlds of film, print, theme parks, architectural decor, and advertising. Her art represented and communicated pure pleasure to the viewer. Mary Blair's personal flair was at one with the imagery that flowed effortlessly and continually from her brush for more than half a century. Walt Disney loved her art and championed it at the Studio. The two shared many sensibilities, including a childlike fondness for playfulness in imagery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JOHN CANEMAKER is an Academy Award and Emmy Award-winning animation filmmaker, and a tenured professor and director of the film animation program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He has written numerous books on animation. Canemaker has contributed more than one hundred related essays, reviews, and articles to periodicals, including The New York Times, the

Los Angeles Times and The Wall Street Journal. He lives in New York City and Bridgehampton.

This is a beautiful book. I am a fan of all things Disney, but I was not aware of Mary Blair's contribution to the Disney "look" until a few years ago. Now that I know which films she participated in, it's fun to look for "Mary Blair moments" in the films themselves. And of course, It's a Small World. This ride was recently renovated at Walt Disney World in Florida, and all of the original appeal is there. Mary's artistic style has held up over time and really captures the "Mid-Century Modern" world she worked in. Another interesting aspect of this book is Mary's multiple roles as a wife, mother and careerist. It appears she handled it all well, although her later-in-life alcoholism may have been her way of coping with stress from "having it all."

A wonderful appreciation. Her art deserves bigger formats, but what you get here is substantial. There are also the many isolated examples of her art in the Golden Books and posters for the famous animated features. Anything that talks about and shows off Mary Blair's exceptional art is a must. This is a must!

I have always been fascinated by the whimsical art of Mary Blair, and little did I know, those interesting magazine ads I would see while clipping collages in grade school, were her art. I appreciate them more now, and marvel at the flair, vibrance and simplicity. This book is terrific! I purchased this book and Magic Color Flair, and like both equally, although Color Flair is a much bigger book with some of her more colorful art.

I wanted to buy the original one, but it is out of print and runs about \$150! So happy this print came out! Love the photos. Great for any Disney fan and learning about an amazing female artist in the 1950s.

It's good to know more about Mary Blair's history. We grew up with that style in our fine art class in City of San Francisco. Color, design, and stylistic, they don't try to teach that anymore. Very good book to sit down and study.

This book is an essential part of any Disney library. Mary had a very distinct style that permeated through much of the artwork coming from Disney during the time she was there. She also had an influence on other artists of the era. This book showcases that flair for design that she possessed

through high quality images and descriptions.

Well, after a few of the reviews below I fully expected this to be a big disappointment, but, as one of the negative reviewers put it, the book had to be owned. I'm a big fan of Mary Blair's work. OK, book arrives in the mail (thanks) and lo and behold it's just swell. Problems with color reproductions?--well, if the same high standards were applied to about 70% of the art books sold here online--the ones that run UNDER \$100--then few would pass muster. Heck, it took me most of last year to scrounge a long-out-of-print copy of a Max Ernst book that was the ONLY one I'd ever encountered where the color was even remotely right. Honestly, the color quality in this Mary Blair book is just fine--a tiny bit muted here and there is about the worst I can say, and no different than a lot of books that feature production art, including some published by Disney. Otherwise, I had no problem with the text (heck, if another reviewer hadn't pointed out that it was largely pulled from something else Canemaker had written about her, I never would have known--and why should the guy rewrite what he's already written anyway?) and the background info, along with production photos are very informative. I'm sure there were problems with rights to some things some of these reviewers wanted to see but maybe they also had evaporated. Heck, I did plenty of concept work that I never saw again and might be hanging on the wall of some project manager or something. Who knows? This isn't art gallery work. So, more perfect book? Sure! A 300 page Mary Blair complete would suit me just fine and I'd find the \$100 to pay for it. I'd also like to see ANY extensive Winsor McCay Little Nemo just stay in print for five minutes and the world hasn't seen a decent Gluyas Williams or Rowland Emmet book in nearly 50 years (and if you don't know who either of those guys are it's because there hasn't been a decent book in print for way too long--not having a big and modern Rowland Emmet is just plain criminal!). While I'm at it, how about any Arthur Rackham repro that's even a vague ghost of the originals! Ah, for a perfect world!

A must have book for ANY Mary Blair fan.

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