



The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond

By Christopher Finch

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First published in 1973, *The Art of Walt Disney* is one of the most successful and influential illustrated art books on American popular culture ever published. This book was the first to reveal the wealth of concept art, animation drawings, and archival material created in the course of animating films. In this newly revised edition, author Christopher Finch has thoroughly reworked every chapter to incorporate the vast achievements of The Walt Disney Company in filmmaking, theater, and theme parks, from Walt's day to the present, including all-new exciting chapters on Pixar Animation Studio and Walt Disney Animation along with extensive interviews with their chief creative officer, John Lasseter, and president, Ed Catmull. Offering hundreds of new images and unparalleled access to leading filmmakers and artists at The Walt Disney Company, *The Art of Walt Disney* will once again capture the imaginations of animation fans young and old.

Praise for *The Art of Walt Disney*:

"Every student of art should own and study this book." —*Georgia Times-Union*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Originally published in 1973, Finch's classic book on the artistic innovations of Walt Disney has been revised and expanded several times, and with each edition his definition of "art" becomes more suspect. The book's original material, much of which Finch wisely retains, patiently records the art, inventions and shrewd enterprises of the studio's legendary early years, while offering a fascinating tutorial on the birth of animation. Seventy lavishly illustrated pages are devoted to the Mickey and Donald years, another 50 to the movies *Snow White* and *Pinocchio*. Walt Disney stars in these early chapters as an artistic Icarus whose prodigal budgets and "quest for perfection" pushed his production teams to unprecedented heights. An unapologetic apologist, Finch is always there to defend Disney (whom he considers "the ultimate auteur") against critics who have called him a "backward-looking" artist and even "an advocate of political authoritarianism." Such biases aside, the book manages to tell a rousing tale of Disney's creative life—right up to his 1965 deathbed hallucination of the yet-unrealized Epcot Center. This new edition, however, also takes on Disney's posthumous life, when his ambitions outlive his quirky personality and are carried out by foot soldiers called "imagineers." The sundry innovations of Tim Burton, Pixar and two Broadway spinoffs may loosely qualify as the "Art of Disney," but so, too, according to Finch, do the corporation's war chest of "toontowns," movie rides and international theme parks. Boldly blurring the line between art and money, Finch's sprawling hagiography of the Magic Kingdom touches down for a perfect Hollywood ending: "Perhaps the greatest achievement of Michael Eisner . . .," it concludes, "has been to build a company in which no creative endeavor need be aborted for lack of available funding."

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From Library Journal

The *Art of Walt Disney* was first published in 1973. This major revision (some 50 percent of the text is new, with 200 new illustrations) carries the Disney story up to such current feature films as *Pocahontas* and even stories in production like *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Finch (*The Art of the Lion King*, Hyperion, 1994) also continues his exploration of Disney's nonanimated enterprises: the live-action films, television productions, and Disney theme parks in the United States, Japan, and France. As one would expect, excellent full-color illustrations abound, although the type size has been reduced in comparison with the first edition, presumably for reasons of economy. Solomon (*The History of Animation*, LJ 12/95) takes a vertical approach to the Disney phenomenon, concentrating on the fascinating world of Disney-animated features that were never released for a variety of reasons. In doing so he draws on the resources of the studio's Animation Research Library, where he was able to take advantage of countless detailed drawings and notes preserved even for productions that never came to fruition—a common practice at Disney. In this volume the Disney connoisseur will learn about Disney projects like *Chanticleer* and *Reynard*, as well as a curious collaborative venture undertaken by Disney and Salvador Dali. Disney propaganda, training, and entertainment films made during World War II are detailed in one of the most fascinating chapters. Few Disney fans would associate the animation giant with such films as *Four Methods of Flush Riveting* or *Prostitution and the War*. As contributions to the history of animation, both volumes are essential for academic and American studies collections. Public libraries with limited budgets may opt for Finch's more broadly appealing book. —Janice Zlendich, California State Univ. Lib., Fullerton

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From [Booklist](#)

When it first appeared in 1973, Finch's massive tome immediately became the standard work on the history

of the Disney studio. While revised as recently as 1995, so much has happened in animation since then that this further revision, brimming with full-color illustrations, is definitely in order. Most of the text covering the lengthy history of the studio, from Walt Disney's early silents to the introduction of Mickey Mouse to *Snow White*, the first U.S. feature-length cartoon, to the 1990s Disney animation renaissance, remains intact. Finch also details the company's moves into live-action films, television, and theme parks. New chapters cover such recent releases as *Mulan* and *Lilo and Stitch*, Broadway adaptations of Disney cartoon features, and, most significant, Pixar's digital-animation releases, such as *Toy Story* and *Monsters, Inc.*, whose phenomenal popularity prompted Disney to phase out its traditional-animation unit. Although authorized, Finch's book accords each film balanced critical assessment. The initial edition is a library mainstay, but the renewed popularity of animation mandates replacing shelf-worn copies of it with this update. *Gordon Flagg*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vanessa McGinty:

The actual book *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond* has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after perusing this book.

Sheila Powell:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because all this time you only find e-book that need more time to be go through. *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond* can be your answer since it can be read by an individual who have those short spare time problems.

Will Cathcart:

The book untitled *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond* contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains her idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

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With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you need to do is just

spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top checklist in your reading list is actually The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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