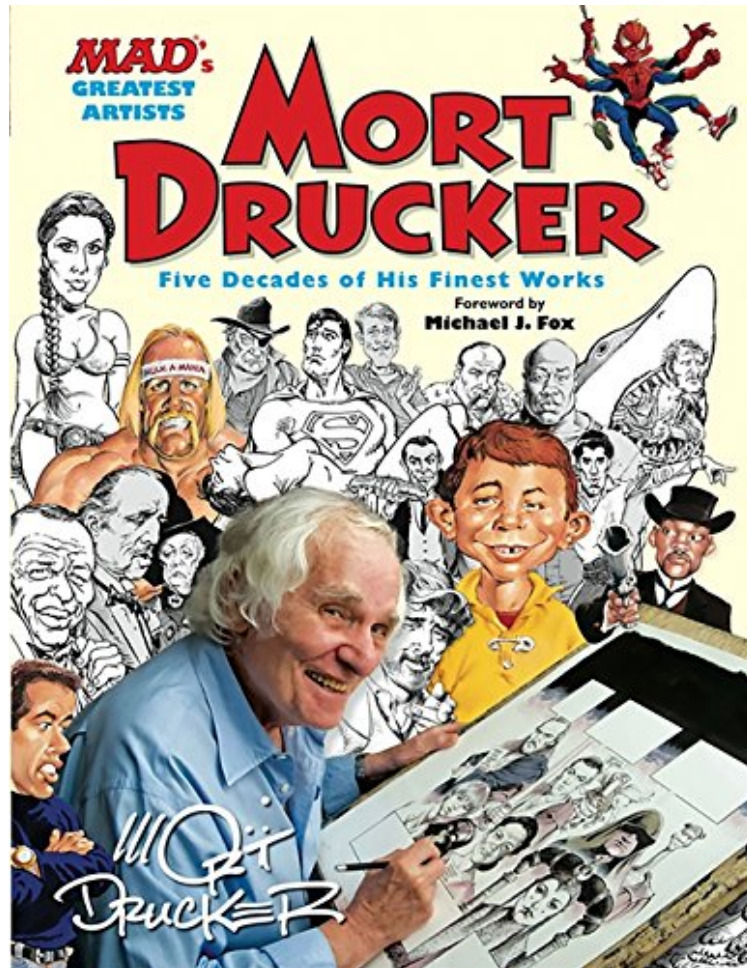


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# MAD's Greatest Artists: Mort Drucker: Five Decades of His Finest Works

*Mort Drucker*

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**Mort Drucker : MAD's Greatest Artists: Mort Drucker: Five Decades of His Finest Works** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised MAD's Greatest Artists: Mort Drucker: Five Decades of His Finest Works:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. The Master himself highlighted in a handsome book! By Fernando Llera First of all, this is a beautifully edited volume with great reproductions of Mort Drucker's fine artwork for MAD magazine, spanning 52 years of first-rate contributions. Most are in crisp black and white but there are some color reproductions of several of his fantastic covers. Included is a beautiful pull-out poster from 1965 in color, originally published in Mad Follies #2. You will find here some of his best parodies from movies and TV shows like Bonanza, Batman, True Grit, The Godfather, American Graffiti, Serpico, Jaws, Raging Bull, Law Order, Harry Potter, Star

Wars, Rocky, Spider-Man, Mission: Impossible and many, many more! I am old enough to remember Mort's work from the earliest years and to me, he was the main reason to buy MAD. That was the first thing I turned to when picking up every new issue and I miss his work from the current editions. No artist has come close to capturing celebrities' likenesses like he did. His line work was extremely precise but somehow loose and free-wheeling and he enjoyed filling his panels with little gags and funny details. You had to go back several times to absorb every nuance Mort inserted here and there. And every satire mirrored the original inspiration exactly. His feel for ambiance, settings and space composition has gone largely unmatched by subsequent Drucker wannabes. All in all, a beautiful volume and a fine tribute to one of MAD's greatest artists. If I had to quibble, I'd only wish some of my favorite parodies had been included, like Bullitt, The Towering Inferno, The Fugitive, The Man From U.N.C.L.E., The Spy Who Loved Me or The Godfather II...but that's only on a personal note. If you admire Mort Drucker, if you're a MAD magazine reader from way back or if you appreciate the fine art of caricature, this book will not disappoint. I only hope we get a Volume 2 sometime in the future with more jewels from Mr. Drucker, my all-time idol!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Simply Amazing  
By Chris Melton  
As a struggling cartoonist, Mort Drucker has been a huge influence and inspiration to me as far back as I can remember. In the first 20 pages this book has already brought back so many memories of reading MAD magazine and being mesmerized at the talent that was within. The most surprising element is to hear and read about the other iconic actors and film makers and their memories of being awe struck and inspired as well, e.g. Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, J.J. Abrams and the list goes on. This is an encyclopedia of greatness and every artist regardless of genre or medium would benefit from this book. If not to learn tricks of the trade but to simply read some of the funniest comics you'll ever come across, period.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really pleased with this  
By Dan Antkowiak  
I enjoy Mad Magazine, but I love Mort Drucker's work. This is a great collection, covering TV show and movie parodies, and including covers and other material. It shows the evolution of his style, and luckily he hit his stride early so a lot has the signature look. I would have liked to see more in-progress images like the great one on the cover, because I had no idea the originals were that big. That's not a strike against the book though. It's a great bargain at this price for the range of samples. Another good one is Mad About Star Wars, which features several of his installments and one from the gifted Hermann Mejia, whose style is very different but superb. And the current issue is a Superman collection that is also mostly Mort. Get it quick!

A contributor to MAD since its earliest years of the fabled Humor magazine, Mort Drucker is recognized throughout the art world as one of the greatest caricaturists of the twentieth century. He has won numerous awards and honors including the National Cartoonists Society's prestigious Reuben Award, the Will Eisner Hall of Fame Award, and an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the Art Institute of Boston. Drucker's most famous features are his movie and television satires. From The Godfather to Star Wars, and from Hulk Hogan to Woody Allen, he has captured our culture's most popular characters with one master stroke after another. Michael J. Fox once told Johnny Carson on The Tonight Show that he knew he had made it when Mort Drucker drew his caricature in MAD. And George Lucas personally traveled to Drucker's Long Island home to convince him to illustrate the poster for American Graffiti. Drucker's greatest MAD works are collected here for the first time ever, hand-picked by the artist himself. It is a celebration that has been more than 55 years in the making!

Steven Spielberg, Director, Jaws "Mort Drucker's timely sense of parody mixed with commentary first made me aware of the culture of our generation. Mort's irreverent and historical caricatures have never been nor will they ever be equaled. He poked fun at all my favorite movies when I was a teenager and when I was a filmmaker, he started going to town on the ones I was making and I loved every frame of his."