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Spiderman *by* Marvel Comics

Animation Sericel - Main Subject: Comics

Item Number
9808990630

Retail Value
$300

ArtRev.com Price
$180
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Dimensions (As Shown)
11W x 8.25H Inches
27.94W x 20.96H cm

Medium
Animation Sericel

Edition
- Edition Size is Unknown

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About Marvel Comics

Marvel Comics is an American comic book company owned by Marvel Publishing, Inc., a division of Marvel Entertainment, Inc.

Marvel counts among its characters such well-known properties as Spider-Man, the X-Men and their member Wolverine, the Fantastic Four, The Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Iron Man, Daredevil, Ghost Rider and many others. Most of Marvel's fictional characters are depicted as inhabiting a single shared world; this continuity is known as the Marvel Universe.

The comic book arm of the company was founded in 1939 as Timely Publications and was generally known as Atlas Comics in the 1950s. Marvel's modern incarnation dates from the early 1960s, with the launching of Fantastic Four and other superhero

titles created by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, and others. Marvel has since become one of the largest American comics companies, along with DC Comics.

Animation Sericel

A cel, short for celluloid, is a transparent sheet on which objects are drawn or painted for traditional, hand-drawn animation. Actual celluloid [consisting of cellulose nitrate and camphor] was used during the first half of the 20th century, but since it was flammable and dimensionally unstable it was largely replaced by cellulose acetate. With the advent of computer assisted animation production, the use of cels has been practically abandoned in major productions. Disney stopped using cels in 1990 when Computer Animation Production System [CAPS] replaced this element in their animation process.

Generally, the characters are drawn on cels and laid over a static background drawing. This reduces the number of times an image has to be redrawn and enables studios to split up the production process to different specialised teams. Using this assembly line way to animate has made it possible to produce films much more cost-effectively. The invention of the technique is generally attributed to Earl Hurd, who patented the process in 1914. The outline of the images are drawn on the back of the cel. The colors are also painted on the back to eliminate brushstrokes. Traditionally, the outlines were hand-inked but now they are almost exclusively xerographed on. Another important breakthrough in cel animation was the development of the Animation Photo Transfer [APT] process, first seen in The Black Cauldron, released in 1985.

Production cels were sometimes sold after the animation process was completed. More popular shows and movies demanded higher prices for the cels, with some selling for thousands of dollars.

Some cels are not used for actual production work, but may be a [special] or [limited edition] version of the artwork, sometimes even printed [lithographed] instead of hand-painted. These normally do not fetch as high a price as original [under-the-camera] cels, which are true collector's items. Some unique cels have fetched record prices at art auctions. For example, a large [Panorama] cel depicting numerous characters from the finale of Who Framed Roger Rabbit sold for $50,600 at Sotheby's in 1989, including its original background.

Disney Stores sold production cels from The Little Mermaid [their last film to use cels] at prices from $2,500 to $3,500, without the original backgrounds. Lithographed [sericels] from the same film were $250, with edition sizes of 2,500 5,000 pieces.

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