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The Art Of Jose Gonzalez



Synopsis

For nearly two decades, Jose "Pepe" Gonzalez was hailed as the premier Vampirella artist, drawing the fiery vixen for Warren Publishing in the Seventies and Eighties. Renowned for bringing to life the most beautiful women the art world has ever seen, Gonzalez's career spans from drawing British romance comics to movie stars, book covers to commercial advertising, and, of course, personal commissions for loved ones and devotees. For the first time ever, author David Roach covers Jose's entire career, transcending his vast body of Vampirella work to explore the full breadth of the master's creations. Vampirella collectors and Jose Gonzalez fans rejoice, for the life-spanning retrospective you've been waiting for has finally arrived! Featuring an introduction by fan-favorite painter Joe Jusko.

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Customer Reviews

Jose Gonzalez was among a number of truly superb Spanish artists who graced European and American comic book art in the 1960's and '70's with a level of realism, maturity, skill, and finish that was absolutely unparalleled in comic book art at that time and, perhaps, even now! There are some extremely strong comic book artists working today: Stuart Immonen, Lienil Francis Yu, Mike Deodato Jr. (all currently for Marvel), and the always imaginatively creepy Jae Lee (for DC)! Yet I STILL think of these amazing 20th Century Spanish artists (of the Warren Comics era): Jose Gonzalez, the incredible Fernando Fernandez, Ramon Torrents, Esteban Maroto, and the amazing Luis Garcia Mozos, as the highest level of illustrative achievement in comics, even if the stories they worked on were sometimes far below their talents. Ironically, their inspirations often came from

America's most dynamic and experimental commercial advertising illustrators of the era such as Al Parker, Robert McGinnis, Paul Calle, and Bernie Fuchs, among others. But that's a HUGE difference worth noting! They didn't simply learn to draw from other comic books, as many do today. They first properly studied in art school and then applied their skill, with a nod to American avant garde illustration, to Britain's romance comics during the mod revolution! And there you have a cinematic level of surrealism that even Neil Adams didn't approach! This collection is a wonderful showcase of Jose "Pepe" Gonzalez's talent and work. As a true career retrospective it has something for everyone; plenty of Vampirella art (interiors, pencils, frontispiece, original page art, and commissions), his beautiful romance comic illustrations (my personal favorites), and a myriad of other excellent commercial work.

Though he didn't create the character of Vampirella, José Gonzalez (or "Pepe" as he was known by his friends and colleagues) was the artist who best defined her. Through Pepe's drawings, Vampi became a character that transcended comic books and became one of the most iconic horror figures "at once beautiful and deadly, and devastatingly sexy. Pepe was called a "lazy" artist by those who worked in the comic book industry, because he was usually late sending in his finished pages (Pepe sent his work from Spain to be published in America when he worked for Warren), and had problems meeting his deadlines. But Pepe was also a complex person, and though he was a brilliant artist, claimed he hated drawing comics. In fact, Pepe was simply an "artiste" in every sense of the word, being at once an excellent imitator "he could mimic any movie star, male or female, and every rock'n'roll singer although he didn't speak a word of English. Although it was the way he drew stunningly beautiful girls that got the attention of the other artists and editors in the comics industry, his drawings becoming the model to follow if you wanted to draw romance comics with pretty girls. Funnily enough, as you look inside this book and see the sheer amount of work this artist managed to put out during his career, you get the impression that he was anything but lazy. Nevertheless, Pepe will be best remembered for his drawings on the Vampirella series. No other artist has managed to define the character as well as Pepe did.

It's pretty amazing how far Dynamite has come these last 5-6 years. This is a company on a mission and everyone and anyone who enjoys comics and comic art should send an email to Dynamite, congratulating them for their success and thanking them for the amazing work that they have delivered to comic lovers the world over. In particular, the amazing work they have done with

Vampirella since acquiring the rights from Harris has been nothing short of incredible and I can't think of a single release that wasn't well worth the purchase. One of my favorite aspects of Dynamite in recent years has been their focus on releasing comic related art books. While I love reading comics, it's actually the artwork more than anything else that really keeps me coming back for more. So it should come as no surprise that I am a big art book and sketch book collector and Dynamite has produced some outstanding art books in recent years. Just to name a few you have the 3 Vampirella art books (The Art of Vampirella, Vampirella: The Warren Years, and Vampirella: The Dynamite Years), The Art of Dejah Thoris and the Worlds of Mars, The Dynamite Art of Alex Ross, The Art of Red Sonja, etc. The Art of Jose Gonzalez is their latest release and like Dynamite's previous art books, it certainly doesn't disappoint. If you're familiar with Dynamite's other art books then you know exactly what to expect quality wise. Dynamite's art books have quality glossy covers, quality bindings, and nice mid range quality paper, which is exactly what you should expect from artbooks in this price range. All in all, Dynamite's art books are well worth the money and will last a good long while if properly taken care of. As for the artwork itself...well, what can one say about Jose Gonzalez?

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