



A DAY IN THE ARTS

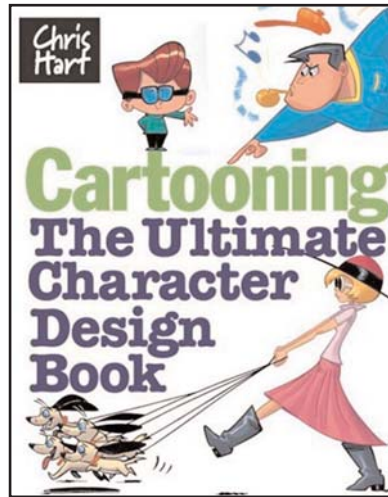
Making art accessible to all

February 27, 2009 ADA0015 www.dayinthearts.com

CARTOONING: THE ULTIMATE CHARACTER DESIGN BOOK

A REVIEW

Chris Hart is one popular guy. He is the author of over 60 how-to-draw books, which, together, have sold more than 2.5 million copies worldwide and have been translated into 17 languages. So I thought it would be interesting to pick up a copy of his recent tome,



Cartooning: The Ultimate Character Design Book. I've looked at several cartooning books in the past but this is my favorite by far.

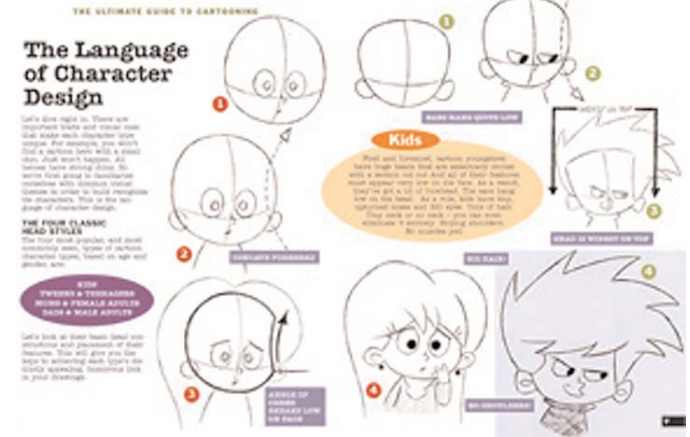
The first half of the book lays out the basics of character design, with detailed, step-by-step instructions. We begin with the Character Design Lab, where Hart explains the four classic head styles for kids, tweens, teenagers, moms and other female adults, and male adults. He explains how to shape the heads, when to provide shoulders (or not), when to draw necks and what shape they should be to fit the character and so on. He explains this through demonstrations for different personalities, such as "goofy

kid", "the athlete" and more. Moving on, he explains how to draw eyes to create various expressions and, again, provide several examples of how the eyes can tell you much about your character. The Character Design Lab takes you through the rest of the body too, each time demonstrating the how and why.

The second half of the book is filled with examples of people from different neighborhoods, such as the suburbs, the big city, Hollywood, and else ware.

Want to know how to draw a junior version of Donald Trump (or Master of the Universe, as Hart calls the boy)? Check out page 106. On page 89 Hart shows us how to draw a quirky "downtown artist". What makes him hip? Why draw him tall and thin or with a slinky posture? Hart explains. Itching to learn how to draw a suburban "coach dad" type? Page 58. He even demonstrates how to draw a few animal characters (such as the "New York guard dog" or the "Hollywood precious pooch").

Enjoy working in your sketchbook? This is a great reference tool to help you hone your "people skills". By practicing Hart's techniques, you can build confidence in your drawing skills



and learn how to quickly sketch the quiriness in the people around us everyday. Besides, Hart's book is filled with humor. Just looking through it is enough to brighten your day! 🐾

Cartooning: The Ultimate Character Design Book

Chris Hart \$19.95

ISBN-13: 978-1-933027-42-5

8.5 x 11 inches o 132 pages

Soho Publishing Co.

www.sixthandspringbooks.com/

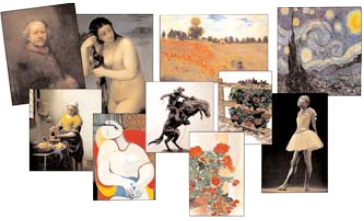
Attn: Book sales

P.O. Box 1808

Altoona, PA 16601

1-800-298-1032

Order from Amazon



ART NEWS

DON'T TOUCH THE PAINTINGS

Shoichi Nakagawa, finance minister of Japan, was visiting Rome during a Group of Seven meeting earlier this month. At a press conference he was said to appear drowsy and his speech was blurred. Later he was with a small group being given and after-hours tour of the Vatican art collection. Nakagawa allegedly touched some of the art and crossed a barrier that set off an alarm. Video of the press conference spread quickly over the Internet. He has since resigned from his post.

PAWN BROKERS TO THE ELITE

It might come as a surprise that there is a market where established artists may raise cash by pawning the rights to their work. Renowned photographer **Annie Leibovitz** is reported to have used the rights to her past and future work as collateral for about \$16 million. The second article linked here also has some interesting notes about the financial woes of Rembrandt, Whistler and Lionel Bart. <http://tinyurl.com/dlu5tq>
<http://tinyurl.com/azdfgk>

COLLECTOR-THIEF CAUGHT AFTER TEN YEARS

A man who filed an insurance claim for about a quarter of a million dollars of art stolen from proceeded to purchase about that much art from Southern California Galleries. The checks he paid with bounced. He ran. Now ten years later he has been found in Las Vegas living under a new name. <http://tinyurl.com/buekju>



OLD BRONZE IN PENNSYLVANIA

The **Erie Art Museum** is running "Ancient Alloy", an exhibit featuring bronze sculpture from afar a field as China and India. Pieces come from the museums own collection as well as private collections. The exhibit runs through June. <http://tinyurl.com/akjs2d>

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Close your eyes. Have someone place a household object in front of you. Open your eyes. Sketch it in three minutes..

WORD OF THE DAY

BINDER

Pigments are mixed with a binder to create paint. The "type" of paint often refers to the binder used. Oils use natural oils such as linseed, walnut or poppy. Acrylics use synthetic acrylic resin as a binder. Egg tempera uses egg yolk. Watercolor uses a water soluble binder such as gum arabic.

Thank you for reading A Day In The Arts!

If you are interested in contributing an article or would like to have your work shown, please contact the editor.

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