



ALEX ROSS

Alex Ross

Universally acknowledged as one of the greatest artists in the field of comic books, Alex Ross has revolutionised the industry, breathing new life into the classic superheroes. By turning them into works of fine art, he has transcended the newsstand origins of his profession.

Just as Andy Warhol elevated soup can labels into multi-million dollar artworks, Alex has elevated the art of the comic book, building on the foundation of the great artists who came before him including Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, John Romita, Neal Adams and George Perez.



From the age of three, Alex was obsessed with illustration, capturing life as he saw it and turning it into something more dramatic with his pencil.

Encouraged by his parents he pursued his passion for drawing and like many other small boys, became enamoured of the exciting world of superheroes. His mother was an artist and his father was a minister, and the combination of art and morality in his home made these guardians of the good the perfect subject for him.

At 17, Alex followed in his mother's footsteps and enrolled at the American Academy of Art in Chicago where he discovered the work of other artists including **J.C. Leyendecker** and **Salvador Dalí**, whose "hyper-realistic quality" seemed to him not very far removed from the classic superhero images that he loved. After three years of building his ideas, expanding his knowledge, studying other artists and honing his technique, he graduated with the plan of becoming a comic book artist.

After working briefly for an advertising agency as a storyboard artist, Alex had his first comic

book work published in 1990 for NOW Comics. He created all the art for a five-issue miniseries, and went on to create similar work on a variety of titles over the next few years. In **1993, he completed his first painted superhero assignment**, the cover of a Superman novel, *Superman: Doomsday & Beyond* and from here on, a series of commissions from, and partnership with, the biggest brands in the industry took him soaring into the illustration stratosphere.

The particular brilliance of Alex's work lies in his ability to blur the lines between fantasy and reality.

Working almost exclusively in watercolour gouache, he strives to make his images as lifelike and realistic as possible, though always fully inhabiting the fantastic worlds of Gotham or Metropolis, and accommodating the necessary suspension of disbelief. Like Norman Rockwell, he is much praised for his figurative portrayals, meticulous execution, dramatic composition and evocative style. His illustrations have been described as adding a third dimension to previously two dimensional characters.

Awards

Since 1998, Alex has won countless awards for his prolific artistic contribution to contemporary culture. He has enjoyed the enviable status of one of the most revered comic book artists of our time with hundreds of thousands of devoted fans, and his unique images have become highly sought after as stand-alone works of art

1994

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Cover Artist
Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Painter/Multimedia Artist
Harvey Awards Best Artist or Penciller
Harvey Awards Best Continuing or Limited Series
Harvey Awards Best Continuing or Limited Series
Harvey Awards Special Award for Excellence in Presentation

1995

Harvey Awards Best Single Issue or Story
Harvey Awards Best Graphic Album of Previously Published Work

1996

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Cover Artist
Harvey Awards Best Cover Artist

1997

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Cover Artist
Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Painter/Multimedia Artist
Harvey Awards Best Artist or Penciller
Harvey Awards Best Cover Artist Alex Ross

1998

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Cover Artist
Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Painter/Multimedia Artist
National Cartoonists Society Comic Book "Reuben" Award for Superman: Peace on Earth
Harvey Awards Best Cover Artist



1999

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Painter/Multimedia Artist
Harvey Awards Best Cover Artist

2000

Harvey Awards Best Graphic Album of Original Work
Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Cover Artist
Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards Best Painter/Multimedia Artist

2003

Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards – Winner Bob Clampett Humanitarian
Winner: Comics Buyer's Guide's CBG Fan Award for Favorite Painter seven years in a row from 2003 to 2010.
Winner: Best Cover Artist CBG Award 11 years in a row, from 1995 to 2005.

“Ross may simply be the field’s Favorite Painter, period. That’s despite the fact that many outstanding painters are at work in today’s comic books.”

Maggie Thompson, Comics Buyer's Guide Senior Editor

Video Links



Secret Origin:
The Story of DC Comics



DC Comics UnMasked
The DC Universe & Multiverse



Alex Ross
Character Lineups



Alex Ross
Classic Superman



Alex Ross
Norman Rockwell Museum Tour
Video



Alex Ross
The Heroes of DC Comics



Superman
Over the Years



Origins: Wonder Woman



Alex Ross
Character Lineups



Alex Ross
Inspiration for The Justice League
Paintings



Batman
Through the Years



Joker
Tango with Evil



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