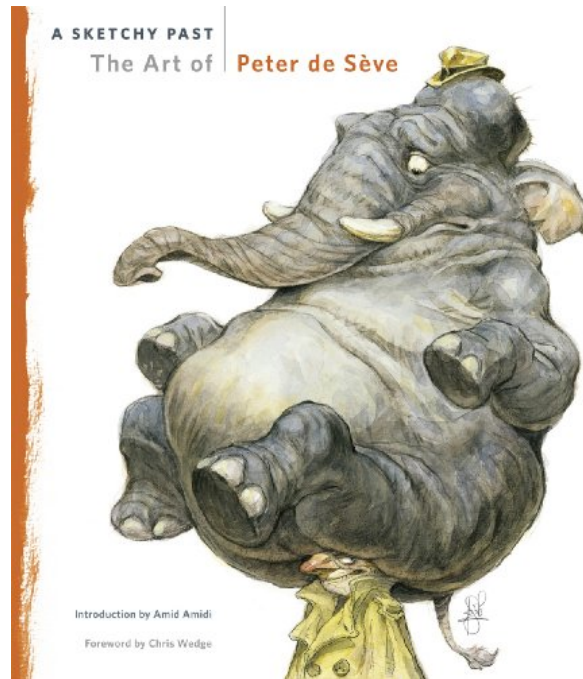


A SKETCHY PAST: THE ART OF PETER DE SEVE



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A SKETCHY PAST

The Art of Peter de Sève



Introduction by Amid Amidi

Foreword by Chris Wedel

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Review

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In this exquisite monograph, world-renowned illustrator and character designer Peter de Sève shows his favorite published and unpublished works. Inventive, eccentric, and often irreverent, they represent a lifetime of drawing . . . a very sketchy past. The imagery that springs from his pen marries colorful personalities with expert storytelling, and wild flights of imagination with a masterly drawing technique that harkens back to a bygone era of impeccable draftsmanship and craft. Copiously illustrated with hundreds of paintings and drawings, including never-before-published New Yorker cover roughs, behind-the-scenes animation development artwork, and personal sketches, *A Sketchy Past* is the first comprehensive survey of de Sève's work. A career-spanning biographical essay written by historian Amid Amidi, along with comments from de Sève throughout the book, offer a unique insight into his approach to illustration and his artistic process.

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Brilliant

By Parka

[[VIDEOID:mo31PD7PRWO3TRZ]]A hare is praying. Behind it, a wide grinning nun closes in with a chopper in hand.

That's the description of an illustration "Hare Mary" published in *The New York Times Magazine*, one of the many publications to be graced by Peter de Seve's wonderful and humorous art work. Peter de Seve likes to use fairy tales or animals as metaphorical devices to enliven otherwise dry material. Not only are the drawings good, the ideas are also fantastic, probably why his work is liked by so many.

A Sketchy Past is a 240-page collection of some of his finest work, all watercoloured unless noted, and lots of fun sketches. They are lovely and timeless.

His portfolio is amazing. He has created art for *The New Yorker*, Disney, Blue Sky Studios, even the Totoro Forest Project and more. There are sketches from his personal sketchbooks, drafts for his magazine work and commissioned projects, like the character designs he did for *Ice Age*, *Finding Nemo*, etc.

This book is a quality publication by Akileos. It's large and measures about 16 inches diagonally. The illustrations are gloriously reproduced on thick low gloss paper, making the book slightly hefty. It's designed to draw a smile of satisfaction on your face.

Other than the beautiful art work, there's also an foreword by Chris Wedge (director of *Ice Age*) and introduction by Amid Amidi. The introduction is actually a nice long biography about Peter de Seve. It's

filled with nice details. You can read about his schooling years, his childhood heroes -- Dracula, Frankenstein, and the Mummy -- or how he built his own studio and the type of books that fill his shelves, or his relationship with people he work with. There are also stories about his love and work for animation, most notably Ice Age where he designed all the characters.

This is definitely one of the best art books for 2009.

Highly recommended.

(More pictures are available on my blog. Just visit my Amazon profile for the link.)

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

The man can draw--pure and simple!

By Young Forest

Peter deSève is arguably the best illustrator of his generation and will be remembered as one of the greats in history and this book puts his immense talent on full display. The man can draw--pure and simple. But what makes his artwork truly exceptional, beyond the exquisite draftsmanship, is the combination of uncanny and deeply felt senses of humanity and humor he is able to infuse into his illustrations. I have admired his work for years, waiting expectantly for his next New Yorker cover to arrive in my mailbox. Each is like a surprise gift and every one has made me smile. I sometimes wonder how many professional illustrators there are out there--very talented ones no less--who feel themselves playing Salieri to deSève's Mozart, both admiring and resentful of his talent. But it is likely not anyone who knows him personally. In the book's Foreword, Chris Wedge (director of the Ice Age movies for which deSève designed the characters) writes "...He really is that funny and that clever, and he really does have a heart that big." For anyone interested in illustration this book is a must for your library. It is also a great gift if you just want to bring a smile to someone's face. For more of deSève's work check out the new children's book, *The Duchess of Whimsy*, which which was written by his wife, Randall.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

excellent book by exceptional artist

By CNg

Artist, Pete de Seve is probably today's greatest illustrator and one of the best of all time. He's done everything of significance from Time and New Yorker covers to Disney and Pixar movies. This book is outstanding with high quality illustration reproductions. A great addition to the collection and a forever keepsake!

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