

We suggest you educate yourself about any area you would like to begin collecting. Animation art, for example is a collecting area that is complex, with minutia that can greatly affect value, etc. No two pieces of original animation art are alike – that is the joy of collecting in this area. But as a buyer or seller, you must be aware of these facts: Animation art comes from many sources and may include significantly different authenticating material depending on the source (I had Chuck Jones personally sign my Rikki Tikki Tavi cel, so there is no signature COA). Also the term “Animation Art” covers a broad realm of items from 4-color transparencies used to print Disney Album covers to Beauty and the Beast original production background paintings sold by Sotheby’s that have special presentation cels made by Disney to accompany them. Yes – as you can tell from my last sentence, research and a knowledge of the industry is also valuable. Finally, original Animation Art is NOT created to be sold. It is created to be used in the making of animation. Therefore some final drawings will have erased lines, some may lack uniform production notes and some cels may have large chunks of paint missing but may be valuable because they are all that exists of that feature (remember – most studios used to wash the cels and reuse them - animators used to put them on the floor and play “slip and slide” on them and Warner Brothers purposefully burned many of theirs when they closed their warehouse).

The example we usually use to illustrate the complexities of animation art is this: I personally received Schoolhouse Rock animation art from one of the creators, Tom Yohe. And while I would likely never sell them because of the sentimental value, they are still very different from the art you’d receive in a gallery and the other art you might see on Ebay. He gave me some original production drawings from the 1990’s AND a signed, personally created drawing of the Bill on Capitol Hill that was not used in production.

Were we to sell these, the production drawings would have no seals or COA’s from the production company or ABC. Though we could offer our own COA for both examples if the buyer requested. The drawings, we would state, are production drawings because I was told by Tom Yohe that they were – though I have no verification of that other than his word and eyeballing the fact that they appear to be exact scenes from the videos. And the personally created drawing? We would sell that as an original drawing by the creator, but not as a production drawing. All of the above are Animation Art and all have value (I know if I didn’t own them I would want them!) but as we stated above, a buyer on Ebay should NOT expect that they would come with identical documentation that art through the production company, via a gallery would come with. Of course, if we were the buyer we would also keep our fingers crossed that the price would be a bit lower buying them from Ebay.

As we mentioned earlier, there are MANY forms of pre-production art. And each piece of art will not necessarily all have the same markings, etc. that others do. Just because one piece of art may lack, for example, an episode number does

not mean it is not pre-production art created by the animators for that show/series/feature. And just because a piece of art does have an episode number does not necessarily mean it was used in the final production or that it aired. Yet both are still beautiful, collectible animation art pieces from those animators and that show/series/feature. And as collectors, while we look to sellers and to our own knowledge to try and place this art into categories of key animator drawings, cut scene cels or title artwork, sometimes it's just going to be difficult to do. Of course, again, we would hope that if this were the case we'd get it for a better price!

There's no escaping the fact that buying on Ebay is just not the same as touching something in a brick and mortar store. As Ebay buyers ourselves, we've learned to read descriptions carefully and also set our expectations at an appropriate level by what is described. Sometimes we miss information – and are disappointed when we look at what we've received (for example when we find paint chips missing from a cel) until we go back and see that the seller clearly showed these flaws in the original pictures. And sometimes we are amazed at the incredible thing we've found – such as our recent purchase of 5 drawings of Timon and Pumba that someone found in a storage locker. We really couldn't know how nice they were when we bought them just from a few snapshots (and their description did not say what they were because they were not sure) - but we took a chance on buying them anyway – and when they arrived we were amazed at the quality of the original Disney Animator artwork they had found.

Don't mistake what we are saying – we WILL do everything in our power and use our CONSIDERABLE knowledge of many collecting fields to provide you, the buyer, with the MOST concrete information possible about each item. Have no fears on that front.

There are wonderful treasures to be found here on Ebay. That is the joy of buying and selling here. But please – read descriptions carefully. Look at pictures and ask questions. Educate yourself in your collecting fields. And set your expectations properly when buying or selling.