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The Heckscher Museum of Art Presents:

Mort Künstler:
“The Godfather” of Pulp Fiction Illustrators
On view August 24 to November 17, 2019

Huntington, NY -- Long before blockbuster superhero movies, those looking for an adrenaline rush turned to adventure magazines featuring exciting stories and thrilling illustrations. As the go-to artist and illustrator, Mort Künstler's work graced hundreds of magazine covers, stories, and books, firmly establishing his prominence in the pulp fiction genre. For the first time, more than 80 of these remarkable original artworks are shown together in The Heckscher Museum of Art's exhibition ***Mort Künstler: “The Godfather” of Pulp Fiction Illustrators. On view August 24 to November 17, 2019.***



Originally featured in magazines such as *Stag*, *Male*, and *For Men Only* in the '50s, '60s, and '70s, the illustrations brought to life headlines that screamed adventure. The images of men in combat, women in distress, and nature threatening man immediately caught the reader's attention. "You try to pick a moment that will entice the reader and catch their attention and make them want to read the whole text," explains Künstler. "The whole goal is to make them stop and go, 'what's going on here?'" (Image left, from the original painting by Mort Künstler, *Jet-Sled Raid* ©1967 Mort Künstler, Inc.)

Künstler was so good, that there were instances when his carefully detailed illustrations actually

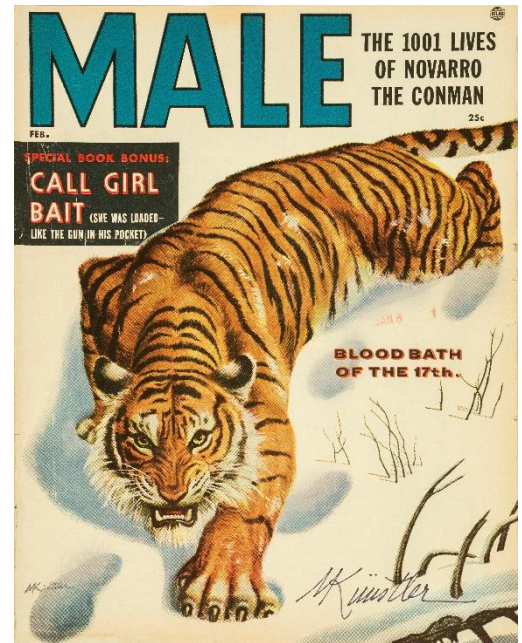
inspired a story, rather than the other way around. During his long career, Künstler illustrated stories for many authors, including Mario Puzo, author of *The Godfather*, who wrote in the same magazines under the pen name Mario Cleri. Künstler illustrated Puzo's *The Godfather*, long before the movie franchise. His vision comes amazingly close to how the characters eventually appeared in the movies.

Some of the illustrations in the exhibition are based on real events: for instance, the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* during World War II. Künstler drew real and imagined scenes from WW II, and illustrated stories about daring escapes and bold bank heists, creating a large portfolio.

“Nobody captured hard-boiled action better than Mort Künstler. His full-throttle, action-packed, in-your-face images represent the very essence of the pulp era,” said Michael W. Schantz, executive director, The Heckscher Museum of Art.

Künstler is perhaps best known as a painter of history. He has exhibited his Civil War art widely. In fact, his painting *The High Water Mark* was unveiled at Gettysburg National Military Park on the 125th anniversary of the battle.

The Heckscher Museum is producing a catalogue to accompany **Mort Künstler: “The Godfather” of Pulp Fiction Illustrators**. A traveling exhibition -- a collaboration between The Heckscher Museum and International Arts & Artists --has been organized as well. (Image right: Cover of *Male*, February 1957, From the original painting by Mort Künstler, *Siberian Stalker* ©1956 Mort Künstler, Inc.)



For more information about the exhibition in Mort Künstler’s own words, click here for a video [preview](#).

Also on View:

A Brush with HerStory: Paintings by Gabriela Gonzalez Dellosa

August 31 to November 10, 2019

Works from the artist’s Homage series, tributes to great female artists from the Renaissance through the modern era.

A Fine Line: Sketches, Drawings and Illustrations from the Collection

August 31 to November 10, 2019

About Mort Künstler

Mort Künstler is one of the most prolific and best-admired American artists. His painstaking research and artistic mastery of U.S. historical subjects have gained universal respect of the art world. His superb illustrations have appeared in *National Geographic*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *Newsweek*. His paintings have been exhibited in museums throughout the country, and have been the subject of books and documentary films. Künstler’s work in the men’s adventure magazine genre in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s helped define an era in publishing. His captivating and sometimes provocative images adorned the covers of *Stag*, *Male*, *For Men Only*, *True Adventures*, and *True Action*. These illustrations have become emblematic of pop culture. For more information, visit MKunstler.com

About The Heckscher Museum of Art

The Heckscher Museum of Art, founded in 1920 by philanthropist August Heckscher, is located in scenic Heckscher Park in Huntington, New York. Through its exhibitions and related programs, the Museum provides inspiring and transformative experiences to encourage a broader understanding of the past and present and to enrich life-long learning. The Museum’s collection comprises close to 2,500 works from the 16th to the 21st century, including European and American painting, sculpture, works on paper, and photography. For information about The Heckscher Museum of Art, visit Heckscher.org.

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm *

Saturday and Sunday | 11:00 am - 5:00 pm *

Monday and Tuesday | Closed

*Huntington Township Residents admitted FREE Wednesdays after 2:00 pm and Saturdays before 1:00 pm. Proof of residency required.

Free Admission for Active Military Personnel, Veterans, and Family

Available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention Common Access Card (CAC), a DD Form 1173, a DD Form 1173-1, a Veteran's DD-214, or a Veteran ID card and a driver's license. Includes active military personnel (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve) or Veteran and up to five (5) family members (spouse, child, aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc.)



Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) since 1972.