



Mission: Impossible Heat Vision Breakdown

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12:16pm PT by Graeme McMillan

Comic Book Artist Russ Heath Dies at 91



Courtesy the family of Russ Heath



The creator, whose career spanned from 1948 until 2011, created the original artwork behind some of

Roy Lichtenstein's most famous pop art paintings.

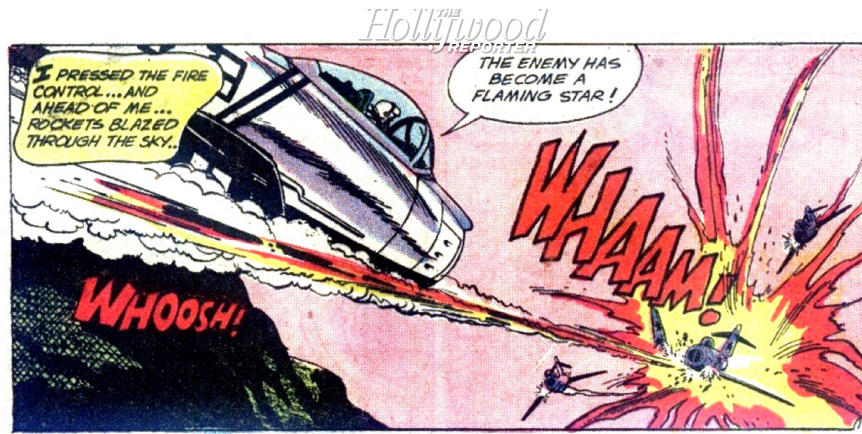
American comic book artist Russ Heath died Thursday night after a battle with cancer, his grandson, Lee Kosa, announced. He was 91.

"My grandfather and legendary comic artist Russ Heath passed away last night. His mastery of the craft of illustration encouraged me to pursue the arts and it is a joy to see my son now filling his own sketchbooks," he wrote on [Twitter](#). "Thank you for passing along the joys of drawing and storytelling."

The artist had lived in Van Nuys, California, for 40 years before moving to a retirement community in Long Beach, where he died. A winner of multiple awards — including the National Cartoonists Society's Milton Caniff Award in 2014 and the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame five years earlier — Heath's career lasted from 1948 until 2011, and included work for multiple publishers in multiple genres. This included Marvel's *Two-Gun Kid* and *Kid Colt*, DC's *Our Army at War* and *The Haunted Tank* and the famous *Little Annie Fanny* strip in *Playboy*.

Most recently, he came out of retirement for Marvel's *The Immortal Iron Fist* No. 20 in 2009, as well as for illustrations in the independent series *glamourpuss* in 2010 and 2011.

Perhaps most famously, Heath's work on DC's *All-American Men of War* No. 89 in 1962 was the source material for pop artist Roy Lichtenstein's paintings "Brattata," "Whaam!" and "Blam," produced in 1962 and 1963. In 2014, Heath wrote and drew a comic strip about Lichtenstein's appropriation of his work, titled "[Bottle of Wine](#)," in which he wrote, "The Museum of Modern Art invited me to the opening when they displayed it. However, I couldn't make it due to deadlines... but I figure Lichtenstein owed me a drink at least."



Russ Heath/DC Entertainment

Whaam!

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