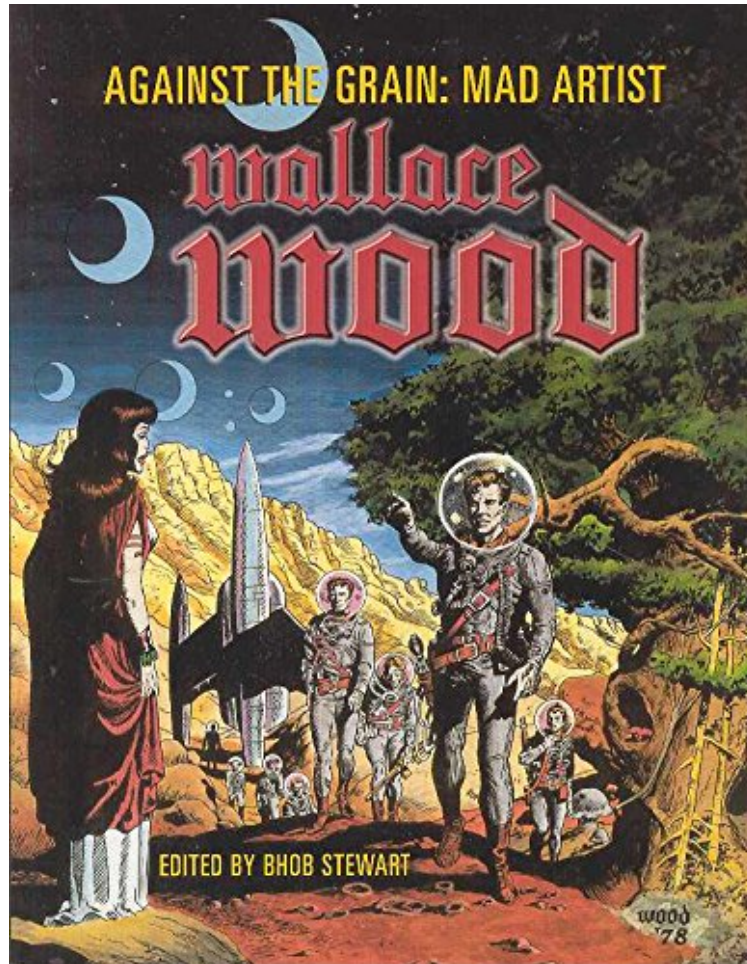


## Against The Grain: Mad Artist Wallace Wood

*Bhob Stewart*

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**Bhob Stewart : Against The Grain: Mad Artist Wallace Wood** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Against The Grain: Mad Artist Wallace Wood:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent documentation of a great artistBy Buss FuzzThis book is a through and brilliantly illustrated document based on the life and work of Wallace Wood. The research is of a high academic standard and yet the text supplied by the various contributors is accessible, entertaining and quietly moving. For anyone wishing to get an understanding of the work of this genius comic book artist "Against the Grain" is a fantastic introduction. For others who are very familiar with Wood's drawings or the great 1950's era of comic artists, this book would also be a very good companion piece. While all the illustrations are in black and white this is more of an advantage as you clearly get to view the tremendous line and tonal work that was such a feature of Woods output. Thoroughly recommended for anyone with an interest in outstanding drawing and the commitment that it takes to achieve the standard of a master. Excellent.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unvarnished look at a

great artist  
By Doug Erlandson  
Those of us growing up in the 1950s and 1960s were well aware of Wallace Wood's work and his genius through his drawings in MAD as well as elsewhere. There was little doubt that he was one of the great cartoonists of his day. When I came upon this book at a bookstore for the first time several years ago I thumbed through it primarily for the artwork, which is faithfully reproduced on its pages. And then I began reading the text, which consists of a number of reflections by various people who knew the man. And once I started reading I couldn't put it down. Wood, I discovered, was an extremely complex man, one who was certainly a great artist, but also someone, like the rest of us, who had his character flaws. If you want to find out about Wallace Wood, the person, this is a great place to start.  
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The triumph and tragedy of Wallace Wood  
By Rick Altergott  
I came upon this book while browsing a comic shop in Cambridge, and soon realised it was the long promised comprehensive survey of Wood's art and career. I applaud Bhub Stewart for his perseverance and obvious passion in bringing this book to publication. Any fan of Wood's will want to read this book. It contains tons of great art ; some of it obscure and previously unseen, and the biographical information it presents is thorough, and illustrated with great photos. A blurb on the back of the book proclaims, "Hooray for Wally Wood" and sure enough the vivid and imaginative genius of Wood is on full display between its covers. This is the triumph part of his story, and it makes it a must have art book. But this book bravely explores the person of Wood as well, including the negatives, and the price he paid for his obsessive genius. It's a tragedy that anyone who knows Wood's story is familiar with, and it speaks loudly to the American culture at large, and how we have in the past, sometimes treated our heroes like throwaway commodities. After seeing some of the gorgeous art in the book, it seems incongruous to imagine the same Wood staying up for 3 days on Dexdrine to ink a Wonder Woman comic, but it happened, and frequently. A giant like Wood routinely worked on mediocre jobs just to scrape by. This warts and all approach is as honest as it is heartbreaking, and in my opinion transforms the book into a work of art of another variety, in its portrayal of a gifted but tortured individual. Attention, Hollywood! Assistants Paul Kirshner, Nick Cuti and others contribute amazing , written tributes to Wood that say just how much they loved the guy, all the while dealing with his difficult personality. For these heartfelt remembrances alone, this book is a welcome, if sobering addition to the legacy of the great Wallace Wood. I don't know if the author's intent was to produce anything more than a beautiful art book and tribute to his friend, but the fact that this book also functions as a cautionary tale that provides insight into the creative process and inner workings of such an American icon as Wood, is a fascinating by product that should be of interest to any general reader.

Bhub Stewart's long-awaited *Against the Grain: Mad Artist Wallace Wood* is the definitive book ever produced on the career of one of science fiction and comics' finest artists. In addition to a remarkable memoir of life at the Wood Studio, former Wood associate Bhub Stewart also provides a biographical portrait, tracing Wood's life from Minnesota to Manhattan while exploring the humorous spirit, dark detours, and psychological twists of a gifted maverick who often went against the grain. From childhood drawings and ambitious teenage samples to an endless parade of pages for a variety of publishers - Avon, EC, Fox, Marvel, Warren, and more - plus illustrations for *Galaxy Science Fiction*, this is the most stunning display of Wood art ever assembled. Many of the artists and writers who knew Wood personally have also contributed articles and essays, making this book a huge compendium of imaginative art, insights and critical commentary. Bill Pearson, executor of the Wood Estate, has made available rare drawings directly from Wood's own files, while noted art collector Roger Hill, an authority on artists of the EC era, provides a wealth of obscure, previously unpublished Wood drawings and paintings.

From Booklist  
Legendary artist Wood mastered every comic-book genre--humor (he was one of Mad's first artists), horror, superheroes, war--but is best known for the 1950s science-fiction stories he drew for EC Comics, in which, one commentator noted, he "began drawing things into panels that no human being seemed capable of before." His heroic spacemen, intricate rocket ships, and frightening aliens embodied classic space opera, and his influence remains visible in the work of many leading comics artists today. Unfortunately, he suffered severe headaches and depression throughout his life and, faced with worsening health problems, killed himself in 1981. This tributary volume includes biographical essays, memoirs by his colleagues, and commentaries on his work. Its major attraction, however, lies in the wealth of artwork it collects, from juvenilia and early comics pages to many previously unpublished drawings and paintings. Only recently have comics begun to be critically respected (still grudgingly at times), and the medium's history and key figures have been sparsely covered so far. This book makes a valuable step toward rectifying that situation. Gordon Flagg  
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