

## Inspiring Walt Disney: How the Magic is Made

Every little girl grows up getting asked the same question; Who's your favorite Disney princess? Without hesitation, my answer would always be Cinderella. While some find it outdated, the bewitching animation style and charming score enchanted me. After about the 100th time I asked them to put it on, my parents tried to introduce me to other princesses, but I refused. My answer was always Cinderella. "What do you want to be for Halloween?": Cinderella. "What doll do you want for Christmas?": Cinderella. "What do you want on your Birthday cake?": Cinderella. Everyone has a similar story. Maybe not Cinderella, but with any number of the Disney protagonists we grew up idolizing. After a while, we get busy. We forget the spells these stories had us under. We forget the feelings that they instilled in us. I remembered when I stepped into the Wallace Collection's *Inspiring Walt Disney: The Animation of French Decorative Arts* exhibition.

From humble beginnings in 1928 with the picture *Steam Boat Willie*, to multi-million dollar box office sensations, Disney became a major influence in all things media. *Inspiring Walt Disney* features American 20th-century animation sketches and French 18th-century art to uncover the fantastical relationship connecting Disney and its real-life inspiration. Moving through the exhibition transports you through its history and how they created its most beloved cartoons.

As you enter and your eyes start adjusting to the dim movie theatre-esque lighting, you are met with Cinderella's magical gown transformation blossoming in front of you. Frame by frame, you watch the iconic scene. "It is common to talk of magic as inexplicable. You can't see how it is done" says journalist Lauren Hill from the Guardian. Witnessing each painstaking detail and minuscule shifts in the sketches puts into perspective the amount of time, focus, and patience required to create such magic. Museum patrons stopped in awe of the piece, watching as their childhood unfolded. Technology in animation has advanced far past the simple pencil and paper used to create these drawings. But even after decades, seeing the exquisite craftsmanship of illustrations up close that are still wowing audiences to this day is simply breathtaking.

While Disney has been inspiring people for generations, this exhibition allows you to glance behind the curtain at the inspirations behind the animation studio's most beloved stories. Namely, *The Swing*, painted by Jean-Honoré Fragonard. Fragonard's painting is one of the most recognizable images of 18th-century French art. The work depicts a young woman wearing a cascading, ruffled, pale pink dress as she is swinging over an idyllic garden. Under her are two men, her husband pushing the swing, and her lover beneath her. It is simply unmatched in its whimsy and fantastical romance. This impact can be seen when shown side by side with the art created by Disney Animators. The painting is shown next to the original opening scene of *Beauty and The Beast*, which replaces the young woman with the titular character Belle being pushed by her father as a child. While this scene did not end up in the film, the aesthetics of the painting greatly influenced the illustrations.

As we get older, we become less attached to the stories that meant so much to us as children. We become desensitized to the magical nature of the stories we grew up with. *Inspiring Walt Disney: The Animation of French Decorative Arts* reminds us that even in adulthood, the artwork of Disney and the inspirations

behind them are worth taking a second look at with a new perspective. These works may be created for children. But with fresh eyes, we can see that Disney's artwork isn't done inspiring us.

## The Revolutionary View of Andy Warhol

To an untrained eye, soup cans are hardly revolutionary objects. In Andy Warhol's eyes, it represented breaking down the barriers between art and ordinary life. His work proved that pop culture and art need not be so separate.

Warhol, born Andrew Warhola, was the son of devout Catholic immigrants. As gay man, his faith and sexuality became inspirations in his work. He was initially a commercial illustrator. From a young age, Warhol was obsessed with consumerist culture, including advertisements, celebrities, and fashion. After exhibiting his work in galleries in the 1950s, he received recognition as an influential and controversial artist.

After gaining success, Warhol became the poster boy of American pop art. His striking and instantly recognizable motifs stunned the art world. He was one of the first to take branding and imagery from popular, everyday culture and translate it into bold, confrontational works of art. His works explored the relationship between artistic expression, advertising, and celebrity culture that thrived throughout the 1960s. He used various media, including painting, silkscreening, photography, and sculpture. His best-known works include the silkscreen paintings *Campbell's Soup Cans* (1962) and *Marilyn Diptych* (1962). Warhol's Studio, The Factory, is one of history's most notorious artist studios. The Manhattan studio played host to all kinds of debauchery and was a safe space for same-sex relationships and transgender people, as well as nudity and sex and drug use. However, Warhol was famously antisocial. He often worked in the background and would involve his visitors, asking them for opinions, or for their assistance.

Andy Warhol understood the draw of global celebrity and its effects on society long before the age of the internet. Through his distinctive work style, Warhol commented on the objectification of human beings. As well as the personification of objects through capitalism. All in a colorful 'tongue and cheek' approach that fascinated the world. He blurred the lines of 'high-brow' and 'low-brow' artwork.

When the audience and the public needed to see the modern world they had created through new eyes, Warhol was always ready to engage in honest representation and assessment. Warhol was able to capture the future and change people's outlooks on art. Reminding us that art is not defined by a category, but rather the one's interpretation.

"Art is anything you can get away with" - Andy Warhol.

### **A Friendly Face: How Barb Trumpi has become a helping hand to the entire Chanhassen Community.**

Tucked away next door to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Boutique 78 is easy to overlook amongst the large marquee and glittering lights of its neighbor. But if you do happen upon this hidden gem, you will find yourself immersed in the eccentric world of colorful jewelry and Phil Collins music that owner Barb Trumpi has worked hard to create. Small in stature but not in ideas, Barb and her larger-than-life personality has become a pillar of this small Minnesota community.

She classifies herself as “a self-diagnosed busy body”. Constantly bouncing around her boutique adjusting displays or taking inventory.

“There's always something that needs to be done, that's my motto.” Barb says while unpacking her latest shipment of Turkish jewelry.

“I want my boutique to feel like home, you know? I spend a lot of time making sure everything looks cozy and colorful, I want the customers to want to spend time here.” One look around the tiny space shows that she succeeded in her mission. The room is filled to the brim with quirky decor and intentionally disorganized collections.

It all started for her 8 years ago with a classic mid-life crisis as a result of becoming an empty-nester after a lengthy career as a stay at home mother . “They didn't need me as much anymore, and I had no idea what to do.” She says with a laugh.

Luckily, Trumpi found inspiration through her and her husband's travels. “Around that time, we were taking trips to Turkey, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Greece.”

The local art and jewelry excited her, and she was determined to bring a taste of it home with her. “I had always wanted to run my own business, but seeing all of the amazing pieces around the world was really how I decided I wanted to start a boutique and sell things from across the globe” She said proudly, briefly pausing her story to chat with a loyal customer. “Eventually, it evolved into supporting local business owners in Minnesota as well.”

After finding a small storefront in the heart of downtown Chanhassen, Trumpi and her boutique quickly found a loyal customer base in the many patrons of the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

“It was definitely daunting to move in nextdoor to such a huge business, I was worried we’d get lost in the shuffle. But our busiest nights are show nights now, because people wander in before and after the show.”

B.78 has a small but dedicated staff, all just as committed to the boutique as the owner. Allison Decou, a long-time employee, says that Trumpi has always put 110% into her business.

“I started working for B.78 very early on, only a year or so after they opened. She has been a huge mentor for me and showed the behind-the-scenes of running a business. I think working with her and seeing her so fulfilled in her career was a big reason I decided to major in business and entrepreneurship when I got to college” she explained.

“Barb is definitely a people person” said another employee, Alex Retterath. “She loves connecting with anyone who walks through the store. And not just superficially. She really wants to know how people are doing and learn all about them. She has taught me so much about customer service and how to foster positive relationships with customers in the time that I’ve worked with her.”

It’s rare that part-time employees give their managers such glowing reviews, but Trumpi says she just got lucky. “Those girls are amazing, truly. They’ve helped me so much, and I’m so proud to see them become such confident young women.”

As a near-constant stream of customers strolls into the store, Barb greets each and every one of them like an old friend. Each one is equally as happy to see her, as she is them. “I love connecting with people, I love to learn about people's lives and listen to the stories they have to tell. A lot of my customers are older, and they are just filled to the brim with tall tales they are dying to tell someone. I'm just happy I can bring a smile to people’s faces when they walk in.”

One of B.78’s star customers Mary Plocher says that Barb and her store are simply one-of-a-kind. “I’ve been a loyal customer for about 3 years. I just love coming here. She is a ray of sunshine in my day every time I see her. She is always so sweet and loves to hear all about my week. I usually spend way longer than I need to because I don’t want to end our chats.” She says while Allison rings up her purchases. “Barb always picks the most unique things to sell in her store, I love seeing what she brings in. Most boutiques around this area sell a lot of the same old stuff, but B.78 always has the best things.”

Outside of B.78, you can find one of Barb's biggest supporters just down the hall at the boutique's next-door neighbor, Edge Nutrition. The owner, Janelle Wilkens swears that Trumpi was an integral part of building the foundation of her now thriving cafe. Even if Barb might not admit it herself. "Starting a business is absolutely terrifying. I felt like I had no clue what I was doing when I first started."

"I am so blessed to have Barb's boutique right next door to me. She was so quick to welcome me and was always happy to help me with any questions that I had. It meant a lot to me to have someone in my corner who was so positive and was always cheering me on." She says, remembering her humble beginnings fondly. "As women in business, especially, Barb's passion for her store gave me the motivation I needed."

Even 9 years after starting B.78, Barb says the most rewarding part of the experience has been seeing the effect it's had on her youngest daughter. "She's my right hand man" She says while simultaneously scuffling up her daughter, Sophie's, hair. "It makes me so proud to see how excited she gets when she thinks of new ideas for the store, or how good she is at making customers smile. She's a rockstar."

A sophomore at Chanhassen Highschool, Sophie claims that she was always introverted growing up. "I was the opposite of my mom, I hated meeting new people." She says with a laugh. After helping her mom with the store, however, she can't wait to talk to new customers.

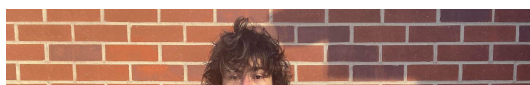
Sophie says that her and the rest of her family couldn't be prouder of her mother. "My mom is amazing. She always seems to wake up with so much energy and excitement. She just cares so much about so many people. She has been a constant inspiration to me. I really hope I can be as passionate about my career as she is about the store."

If you had told Barb 10 years ago that she would be running one of the most popular boutiques in Chanhassen, she would have laughed in your face.

"This experience has truly been so amazing. Owning this store has really allowed me to become more independent and confident, and it has connected me to such wonderful people that I am so thankful for. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

### **The Trendsetters: Student Profiles**

TikTok influencer Isaac White takes the Shakespearean quote "all the worlds a stage" to the next level. Stepping into the interview, the 6'8 social media star looks equal parts editorial and dystopian. Over





the past two years, Isaac has garnered over 1 million followers on TikTok with his quirky humor and eccentric style. While he may be a fashion force to be reckoned with now, he wasn't always this comfortable with himself. "I definitely looked really straight in high school" White says, laughing. "I literally only wore what I thought I wouldn't get bullied for. Bootcut jeans, hoodies, maybe sweatpants. Now I only go to class if I have an outfit I love." When asked what changed, he says the difference now is attitude. "I realized that everyone is wearing a costume, so it doesn't really matter if they stare or not. I'm 6'8, people are going to stare anyways, I might as well wear something that makes me feel confident". As for his current style, Isaac says he's turned to the world of subversive basics and 1980s grunge. "I've really been into grungey, post-apocalyptic vibes. I've been wearing a lot of neutral colors, and monochromatic outfits. Honestly, anything that looks like something people wouldn't normally wear." For

inspiration, White turns to TikTok influencers like TinyJewishGirl (Clara Perlmutter) and Victoria Paris. "They constantly come up with new, interesting concepts. And even if I don't like what they put together, it always inspires me to try my own ideas." The content creator says that he hopes his own videos help his followers do the same.

Blending in has never been a priority for Ella Voloshen . In fact, she'd like to do just the opposite. The fashion student says that she's never wanted to go unnoticed. "In high school, I dressed to stand out. And it worked, I was voted best dressed as my senior superlative. Which was a really big deal for me at the time. Now I dress the way I want to instead of dressing to impress people." With her blunt edge fringe and vintage-rock style, Volshen stands out no matter where she goes. When asked about her inspirations, she says that it comes from music and the LGBTQIA+ community "I think that a lot of my

style comes from queer culture. As a queer person I look to a lot of different people for inspiration, like queer influencers. I also think that music influences my style a lot. I used to listen to indie-pop and that took me into the 'indie soft girl' look. I wore a lot of pastels and soft textures, like the things I saw the artists I listened to wearing. Now I'm listening to hard rock and heavier music I can feel my style kind of shifting towards bolder, darker looks." Ella says that her style also fluctuates with her mood. "Some days when I'm feeling introverted, I dress more casually or comfortably. On other days when I'm feeling outgoing, I like to