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8 Chalk Renderings of Famous Characters

See how pavement artists have brought these fictional figures to life

By [Brynn Mannino](#) Posted November 10, 2010 from [WomansDay.com](#)

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Pavement art—large-scale sidewalk murals often done in chalk—dates back to 17th-century Italy, when peddlers would display their talents on the street for money. Originally dubbed *Madonnaris* because they often recreated images of the Madonna, today, pavement artists don't just pick a spot on the sidewalk, they also create their works at festivals and theme parks. Chalk it up to unlimited canvas space, creative freedom or just sheer talent: The eight renderings of famous characters below are some amazing works of art—found exclusively outside museum walls.

Superman



New England-based artist Michael Macaulay created this 5' x 8' Superman mural at the Syracuse Arts & Crafts Festival in July 2006. Taking four hours to complete, the piece won the People's Choice Award at the event. "I do a lot of sports- or superhero-related street paintings for open events—children love it and they really tell you how they feel about your work," Macaulay says. "Some people thought the manhole and manhole cover were real!" *Photo: courtesy of [Michael Macaulay](#)*

Hulk



At the 2006 Harvard Square May Fair in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Macaulay created this 10' x 12' chalk rendition of the Hulk, which took five hours to complete and won the Adult Division Award. "I like the challenge of incorporating the surface on which I am working into my street paintings—the

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rough, cracked pavement worked well with this piece," Macaulay says. *Photo: courtesy of [Michael Macaulay](#)*

Wicked Witch of the West



At the 2010 International Chalk Festival in Sarasota, Florida, artist Jennifer Nichols Chaparro worked for 19 hours to create this 8' x 10' masterpiece based on a painting by American comic book artist Alex Ross (the original work was created for the 70th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*). Chaparro says, "I was amazed how many people, both young and old, connected with it. It was funny how many times people came up to the work and said, 'I'll get you, my pretty!'" *Photo: courtesy of Jennifer Nichols Chaparro/ [AmazingStreetPainting.com](#)*

Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy



With the help of two assistants, California-based artist Alice Scott Crittenden created this piece in 2008 for ArtSplash in Carlsbad, California. The work, which measures 12' x 17' and took 16 hours to make, was inspired by the 1984 book *Miss Piggy's Treasury of Art Masterpieces from the Kermitage Collection*. "My daughter's art history instructor used this slide to spark interest in Jan van Eyck's work," Crittenden says. *Photo: courtesy of Alice Scott Crittenden/ [Ascrittendenart](#)*

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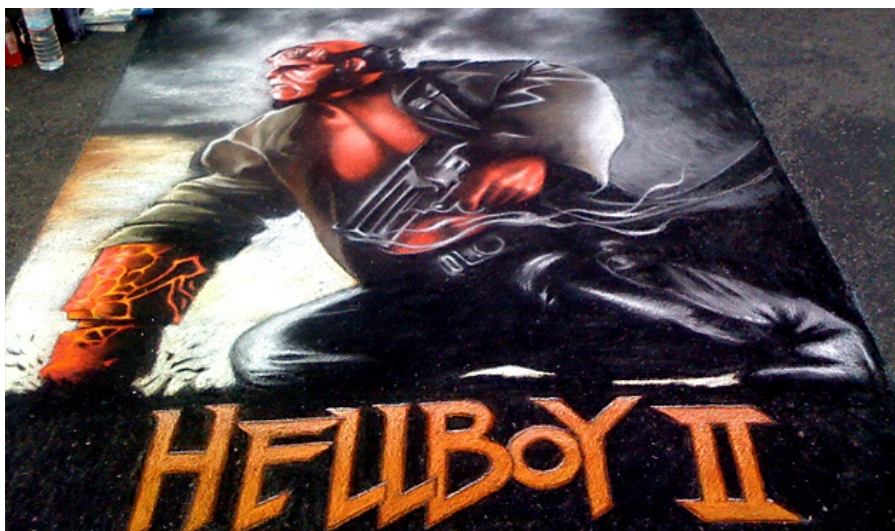
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Artist Eric Maruscak drew this recreation of an original piece by Alex Ross for the 2008 New York Comic Con. The 9' x 14' piece took approximately 26 hours to make over a three-day period. "Ross was actually the guest of honor at the show, and I was asked to recreate one of his works in my usual gigantic size," Maruscak says, adding, "[Ross's] painterly [style](#) and color blending lends itself excellently to the chalk medium." *Photo: courtesy of Eric Marusca/ [PepperInk.com](#)*

Hellboy



In 2008, California-based artist Julie Kirk was commissioned to complete this chalk painting of the [movie](#) poster for *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, at Universal Studios in Universal City, California. "Over the course of the summer, I was at Universal every weekend doing a different poster based on [movies](#) that were coming out," she says. *Photo: courtesy of [Julie Kirk](#)*

Charlie Brown and Snoopy



At Lake Worth, Florida's 15th Annual Street Painting Festival in 2009, Florida-based artist Betty Dominguez created this 4' x 6' Charlie Brown and Snoopy mural in approximately 12 hours. Inspired by the work of Tom Everhart, the American artist who contributed to the Peanuts comic strip, Dominguez says of the event, "I had dogs posing for pictures with my artwork!" *Photo: courtesy of [Betty Dominguez](#)*

Wonder Woman



Inspired by the DC Comics character, Dominguez [first](#) created a painting of Wonder Woman, upon which she based this 9' x 12' mural, which was completed in 18 hours at the 16th Annual Lake Worth Street Painting Festival in 2010. She says of the experience, "I had a viewer walk over to my artwork and smear part of it to see if it was actually made with chalk." *Photo: courtesy of [Betty Dominguez](#)*

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Alice Scott Crittenden Nov 12

Great article on street painting famous characters! Thanks to Joni from ArtSplash for the photo!

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