

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Robert Stull

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Stull, Rob
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull,
Dates:	January 28, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:23).
Abstract:	Comic book artist Robert Stull (1967 -) worked for every major publisher in the comic book industry. Stull was also the creator and curator of Sequential Art: The Next Step, the first ever gathering of African American comic book artists, and was the co-founder of Armanda Design Group, a New York based studio, whose mission was to fuse together comic books and hip-hop. Stull was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 28, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_029
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Robert “Rob” Stull is an accomplished comic book artist. In the design of comic book pages he is known as an inker—drawing the characters and scenes with black ink before the coloration is added. He has worked for every major publisher in the comic book industry.

Born on February 2, 1967 in Boston, Massachusetts, Stull grew up and attended public schools in nearby Brookline, Massachusetts. He began drawing at age four and was encouraged throughout his childhood and youth by his mother Patricia Ryder and his father Donald Stull. Stull began his professional career after graduating from the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in 1989. At Stulldesign / Ink on Paper, he worked with several companies in Boston and New York, providing services ranging from graphic design to art direction.

Stull’s projects include: *Spider Man Adventures*, *Slingers*, *Iron Man*, *X-Force*, *New Mutants*, *Wolverine* and *Spider-Man / Doctor Octopus: Out of Reach*--all for Marvel Comics. Other projects include *Nightwing* and *Secret Files* for DC Comics and *Tellos* for Image Comics.

Stull is also the creator and curator of *Sequential Art: The Next Step*, the first ever gathering of African American comic book artists and the grouping of their art in exhibition format, to demonstrate the presence of blacks in comic book art. *Sequential Art* is a traveling exhibit spotlighting the contributions to comic book art and popular culture, which has been viewed around the country. The exhibit displayed over 100 works by thirteen mainstream contemporary black comic artists.

Stull was also the co-founder, along with Keron Rant and Chris Walker, of Armanda Design Group, a New York based studio, whose mission was to properly fuse together comic books and hip-hop. The studio produced high quality illustration work for clients such as Virgin Records, Tommy Boy Record, *The Fader* magazine and

Cornerstone. In 2004, Stull taught a two-week “crash course” in Bordeaux, France, at the Carnival des 2 Rives to communicate the language of *Sequential Art* and have the participants produce work in a deadline fashion just like the comic book artists that work in the industry.

Robert Stull was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 28, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Robert Stull was conducted by Robert Hayden on January 28, 2005, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Comic book artist Robert Stull (1967 -) worked for every major publisher in the comic book industry. Stull was also the creator and curator of Sequential Art: The Next Step, the first ever gathering of African American comic book artists, and was the co-founder of Armanda Design Group, a New York based studio, whose mission was to fuse together comic books and hip-hop.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Stull, Rob

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Stull, Rob--Interviews

African American cartoonists--Interviews

African American artists--Interviews

African American Families--Massachusetts--Boston

Brookline (Mass.)--Social life and customs

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. School

Graffiti--United States

Marvel comics

Spider-Man (Comic strip)

X-men (Comic strip)

Cartoons and comics--History and criticism

Art--Vocational guidance

Hip-hop Influence

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Comic Book Artist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to

The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, January 28, 2005. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, Section A2005_029_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Comic book artist Robert Stull begins by describing his family, including his mother and father's backgrounds and personalities, his older sister, and the effect of his parents' separation. Stull talks about his grandparents and great-grandparents. He then details his childhood neighborhood in Brookline, Massachusetts, remembering friends and favorite pastimes. Stull also describes his elementary school life and his early interest in drawing.

African American cartoonists--Interviews.

African American artists--Interviews.

African American families--Massachusetts--Boston.

Brookline (Mass.)--Social life and customs.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. School.

Graffiti--United States.

Marriage.

Spider-Man (Comic strip).

X-men (Comic strip).

Cartoons and comics--History and criticism.

Art--Vocational guidance.

Hip-hop--Influence.

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, Section A2005_029_001_002, TRT: 0:31:11 ?

Comic book artist Robert Stull continues to describe his childhood in Brookline, Massachusetts. Stull talks about his high school years and explains his increasing interest in art. He details his high school art instruction and explains

how his teachers encouraged him to pursue his goal of becoming a professional artist by taking classes at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and participating in youth art contests. Stull then explains his artistic influences as a child, including cartoons and commercial artists like J.C. Layendecker.

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, Section A2005_029_001_003, TRT: 0:29:31 ?

Comic book artist Robert Stull details his varying artistic influences in graffiti art and hip-hop music and their impact on his creative endeavors. While at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Stull explains how he organized a student group, Spectrum, as a means to draw more attention to the accomplishments of black students there. Stull then discusses his career in graphic design and explains his transition to the comic book industry, detailing his break as a line artist for Marvel Comics.

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, Section A2005_029_001_004, TRT: 0:31:11 ?

Comic book artist Robert Stull discusses his artwork for various comics such as Spider-Man and X-Men for Marvel Comics. He explains his techniques for different comics and explains the history behind many of the comics he has drawn. Stull then talks about forming the Armada Design Group, a studio that combined comic book and hip-hop art, and outlines the group's method and goals. He then details his involvement in launching the traveling exhibition Sequential Art: The Next Step, a celebration of African American comic book artists.

Video Oral History Interview with Robert Stull, Section A2005_029_001_005, TRT: 0:26:50 ?

Comic book artist Robert Stull recalls several successful exhibitions from "Sequential Art: The Next Step" and details his art design work at a European music festival. Finally, Stull reflects on his life and career, gives advice to aspiring young black artists, and narrates his personal photographs as they are recorded on videotape.