



A Whole Other World: Sub-Culture Craft
Artists Inspired by Doctor Who, Star Wars, Steampunk, and Superheroes
May 24 – September 6, 2015

The following is a basic resource guide for the four major subjects that are addressed in *A Whole Other World: Sub-Culture Craft*. It is by no means comprehensive – rather, it is a start for those interested in exploring a bit more.

General “geek” sites – almost all of the topics are featured with the latest news on movies, TV shows, events. Often includes reviews and subjective comments.

- Geektyrant.com
- Geekologie.com
- geekcentralstation.blogspot.com
- nerdist.com
- geek.com

“Geekcraft sites” – places to go when you want to make a recycled wood table emblazoned with a Jedi symbol, a Lego mirror accented with heroes and villains, a **TARDIS** play-house, a chainmail superheroine, a Death Star Cake, an **Ewok** costume for your dog, and more.

- Geekcrafts.com
- Geekpaperscissors.com
- Craftster.org
- Makezine.com

Doctor Who

Episodes started in 1963 – available via Amazon or specialty retailers, such as Alien Entertainment in Lombard, IL. There are also comics, graphic novels, books, and collections of short stories available.

- www.bbcamerica.com/doctor-who—official website featuring videos, images, cast bios, premiere information, and trailers
- <http://tardis.wikia.com/wiki/>
- www.youtube.com/user/doctorwho
- www.doctorwhomagazine.com – *Doctor Who Magazine*
- Modern spin-offs focusing on some of the *Doctor Who* characters include *Torchwood* and *The Sarah Jane Adventures*

Star Wars

- www.starwars.com—official website with daily news, games, and videos.
- <http://starwars.wikia.com/wiki/>
- <http://starwarcrafts.livejournal.com/>
- *Star Wars I-VI* full length feature films (with a new film to be released in December 2015)

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- *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* (animated TV series)
- <http://fullscalefalcon.com> – Chris Lee project to build the Millennium Falcon to 1/1 scale

Steampunk

- milwaukeeesteampunk.webs.com – The Milwaukee Steampunk Society
- <http://steampunkchicago.com> – Steampunk Chicago
- Popular movies that have a Steampunk-related aesthetic include *Wild, Wild West* (1999), *League of Extraordinary Gentleman* (2003), *Hellboy* (2004), and *Sherlock Holmes* (2009)
- Older movies also have elements that could be seen as precursors to modern steampunk – *Metropolis* (1927), *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954), and *Brazil* (1985)
- Historical authors mentioned as influences include Mary Shelley (early 1800s), Jules Verne (1800s), and H.G. Wells (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- www.Kineticsteamworks.org (or) <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/kinetic-steam-works> – San Francisco area collective dedicated to restoring steam-powered kinetic art
- www.thesteamporium.com – website of Ed Kidera IV, whose works are included in *A Whole Other World*

Superheroes

- http://superheroes.wikia.com/wiki/Superhero_Wiki
- Because of the voluminous information regarding superheroes, superheroines, and supervillains generally, it is best to undertake independent investigation of the individual characters.
- Wondering who the first superhero was? It depends on where you look and how you define a superhero. The first modern comic book superhero is generally accepted as **Superman**, with a 1938 debut. Other costumed heroes appeared before that – in pulp fiction, **The Shadow** debuted in 1931; in newspapers, **The Phantom** appeared in 1936; and **The Green Hornet** was on the radio in 1936.
- Each author, illustrator, and movie director adds their own flavor to how a superhero is depicted—a creative act that also keeps the characters dynamic.

Mash-ups

The geek/geekcraft world encompasses the subjects of many movies, television series, books, video games, and graphic novels. These worlds often collide in “mash-ups” with fans blending subjects, such as **Superman** holding a light saber or the villainess **Harley Quinn** wearing a steampunk-inspired ensemble. “Mash-ups” can be found pretty easily and all of the themes literally converge at events such as **Comic-Con International**. Comic-Con started in 1970 in San Diego in an effort to bring together comic book, movie, and science fiction fans.

- One example of someone who thinks a lot about mash-ups is the high school teacher, Sillof, who also creates toys in his spare time. His work is featured at www.sillof.com. His “Steam Wars” figures are *Star Wars* characters with a bit of steampunk while the “Gaslight League” reimagines comic heroes and villains in the Victorian era.

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More

There are also analyses through the lens of society and culture more broadly. For example:

- *How Star Wars Conquered the Universe: The Past, Present, and Future of a Multibillion Dollar Franchise* by Chris Taylor
Talks about the production of the movies and their (and their creator's) relationships to greater cultural concerns. Also incorporates interesting tidbits, including that Christopher Walken was originally meant to play **Han Solo**; Han Solo was partly based on Francis Ford Coppola; Lucas named **Chewbecca** and his kind after a friend of a friend, Bill Wookey; and Lucas was heavily influenced by the 1930s Flash Gordon serials as well as 1950s car culture.
- *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore
Written after the author reviewed the never-before-seen private papers of William Moulton Marston, **Wonder Woman's** creator, who was influenced by early suffragists and feminists.

There is themed merchandise in RAM's Museum Store – you never know what you will find!