

Mark Arminski Set



by Michael Erlewine

Mark Arminski

Set

by

Michael Erlewine

Mark Arminski Series Set

by Michael Erlewine

Mark Arminski, like the great Victor Moscoso before him, not only produced concert posters, but set about from almost the beginning to number and control his own work, envisioning an extended collectable series. Standing firmly between the original psychedelic artists like Stanley Mouse and Rick Griffin and the more modern artists like Frank Kozic, Mark Arminski uses modern styles and techniques, but has the sensibilities of the earlier psychedelic artists. Where many of the Punk and New Wave artists are stark and in-your-face, Arminski, in particular in his use of color, is subtle and harkens more to the ideals of the original psychedelic scene. If anyone can be said to carry on the marvelous color work of Victor Moscoso, it has to be Mark Arminski. In fact, a number of collectors of the early psychedelic posters, who do not collect more modern posters, do collect Arminski. In fact, they collect everything he produces. That tells you something about this artist right off the bat.



Toadies by Mark Arminski

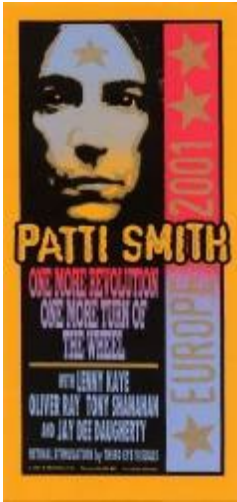
From quite early on, Arminski settled on not only a unique and immediately identifiable style, but also a distinctive poster size, 10-1/2 x 22-1/2 inches. You can spot an Arminski poster a mile away by its shape and by its color. And the artist always produces a matching handbill to go with each poster. Arminski posters and handbills are widely collected (just check out Ebay) and at affordable prices too!

Lately, the prices for Arminski items have started to rise, as more and more of this great art is out-of-print and unavailable. The hunt is on, as collectors begin to realize that the supply of what was so readily available for so long is starting to dry up.

Complete collections of Arminski's series work are already VERY rare and certain posters/cards are already virtually unattainable. In particular posters for the bands Phish and Dave Matthews, which were part of some sort of legal action against Arminski by the handlers of these groups, are not to be found. They were ordered to be destroyed and taken off the market, and are considered essential to complete a set. Just try and find one!

Aside from the numbered series, with their distinctive size and style, there is a mid-sized body of earlier Arminski (from the late 1980s and early 1990s) that is also very much worth finding and collecting. This early material is getting downright rare and very few collectors have it. It makes a perfect compliment to the numbered series.

The poster art of Mark Arminski, uniquely modern, yet perfectly in tune with the spirit that started in the hippie dancehalls of San Francisco in the mid 1960s, represents not only one of the best collectables investments at present, but Arminski's work also serves as a bridge that connects the very roots of psychedelia to the present time.



Patti Smith by Mark Arminski