

off the mark

by Mark Parisi

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Tom the Dancing Bug ©1993 BY Ruben Bolling

THE HISTORY OF DOUG

ODYSSEY OF AN UNREMARKABLE CARTOON CHARACTER



IN THE MID-1960's, DOUG MADE AN EMBARRASSING ATTEMPT TO CASH IN ON THE SUPER-HERO CRAZE.



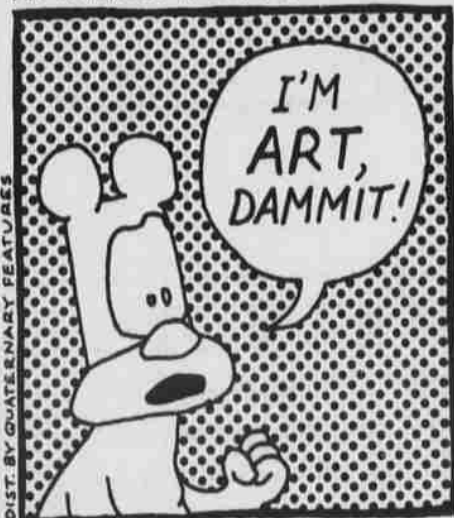
IT WAS IN THE UNDERGROUND COMIX SCENE OF THE LATE SIXTIES, HOWEVER, THAT DOUG HIT HIS STRIDE. HIS COMIC BOOK 'SEX DOUG AND ROCK & ROLL' WAS AN INSTANT SMASH.



BUT DOUG LEFT THAT SUCCESS AFTER ONLY ONE ISSUE TO TRY TO ATTAIN BROAD COMMERCIAL APPEAL. THE SEVENTIES WERE MARKED BY HIS OBVIOUS AND INGRATIATING ATTEMPTS TO START A CATCHPHRASE THAT WOULD SWEEP THE NATION AND PROPEL HIM TO STARDOM.



IN THE 1980's, DOUG DECIDED THAT "THE BIG BUCKS ARE IN THE HIGH-BROW STUFF," AND MADE SEVERAL APPEARANCES IN ORIGINAL PAINTINGS.



BUT THE OVERWHELMING CONSENSUS WAS THAT HE WAS NOT ART, AND DOUG FOUND HIMSELF SCOURGING FOR WORK IN COMICS AGAIN.



IN 1990, DOUG LANDED A GIG IN AN OBSCURE COMIC STRIP AND SETTLED INTO THE FIRST SEMI-REGULAR WORK OF HIS CAREER.



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