



"Do good deeds in a funny way. The world needs to laugh or at least smile more than it does."

Rose O'Neill



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Illustrious Illustrator Rose O'Neill

06/25/1874 – 04/06/1944

On September 19, 1896, the magazine Truth published a comic strip titled, "The Old Subscriber Calls," and Rose O'Neill became the first woman to publish a comic strip. Yet, before 1896, O'Neill was already a talented illustrator and cartoonist. She published her first work at the age of 13 when she won a drawing contest for the Omaha World-Herald. By her early twenties, she was an established illustrator with work in various magazines including Truth and Puck.

Beyond her illustrations, O'Neill also wrote poetry, published books and novels and exhibited work in Paris and New York. She published four children's books and four adult novels between 1904 and 1936. Her artistic masterworks are "Sweet Monsters," which made their first public appearance in 1906.

Rose O'Neill is best known, however, for the creation of the Kewpie Doll. She first created the Kewpie for a comic in Ladies' Home Journal, but it became popular after she signed a contract with Women's Home Companion in 1910. The cartoon Kewpie became a doll and was sold everywhere. It was the first novelty toy distributed around the world. The craze died out by World War II, but its success made O'Neill a millionaire.