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Subject: Sin City

Posted by [lon](#) on Thu, 03 Nov 2005 21:56:32 GMT

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Maybe I should make an outline: Sin City as a cartoon movie Sin City chiaroscuro: the use of light and shadow Sin City, the fantasy fulfillment of Ralph Bakshi's animation. Sin City: 13 year old-style jerk off film Sin City: cartoon as story board for an actual shoot. I'm over in windows now. i don't normally lose posts in Windows like I do in Linux, I lose mail. :-/ We wanted to talk about something different and I have recently seen Sin City-- twice. Got it on loan from the local library and so it's taken a while for me get hold of it. After blowing off one long review type piece (the one you lose are always the best) I thought of Dark City with relation to this film because, you know, they're dark: dark in story and dark as in nighttime. For this reason and unlike Dark City, the world of Sin City is incomplete. We know why it's dark in Dark City. Where does Marv get his hair cut? This started to bother me. The characters are so narrow you can't really see them as having lives of their own. Would marv take an ax to his barber if the barber did not get his flat top just right? things like this never bothered me in Dick Tracy with Warren Beatty. Next the chiaroscuro. That's a term from painting which means light against dark. This is the true art of Sin City. I recall over and over one scene of Bruce Willis whose eyes were just 'slits' that the light has captured just so... cartoon eyes like at the beginning of a Pink Panther film. It's likely that Sin City will and has been written about extensively for capturing that netherworld between animation/morphing/live action. Ralph Bakshi was the first mainstream animation filmmaker to explore the desire to see what is under the cloths of cartoon characters-- to sex them up beyond what is available to underage readers. So that desire remains dormant until--well, I can't say mine has ever been satisfied. Sin City is not a cartoon. What I put at the end of the first piece I wrote on this was the look of Sin City as comic made into storyboard for film and how that framed storyboard image was just on the edge of perception by the viewer in Sin City. This wasn't an artifice or maybe it was. To me, I saw "this is the end of that board" in a way that violated the normal willing suspension of disbelief. Robert Crumb and the film that was made about him called "Crumb" also came to mind after seeing Frank Miller himself. I got the idea that that ol' Frank was having more than a little Freudian compensation and displacement if not pure "transference" with his male characters. Well, it all turned out better the first time I wrote it, but now it's open for discussion. Wait, I forgot to mention "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" as another all digital feature film and how what worked well in that as opposed to Sin City. Ok, here it comes before I lose it again...

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