

Experts applaud artist's disabled Disney princess series

Italian artist Alessandro Palombo is speaking out about the lack of amputees and disabled characters in pop culture with his latest series, portraying Disney princesses in wheelchairs or with missing limbs. Advocates say the message is much-needed.

BY [RHEANA MURRAY](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



ALEXSANDRO PALOMBO

Disney princesses get a new look in artist Alessandro Palombo's latest series.

From Snow White in a wheelchair to Pocahontas limping on crutches with only one leg, they're Disney princesses like you've never seen them before.

Outspoken artist and fashion critic Alessandro Palombo's latest piece portrays the cartoon beauties as disabled women, a stark contrast from the Disney classics.

"I wanted to give visibility to a problem that affects a great amount of people in the world," Palombo, 40, told the Daily News.



ALEXSANDRO PALOMBO

Snow White in a wheelchair. A new campaign reimagines Disney princesses as disabled women.

The Milan-based artist poses the question, "Do you still like us?" next to his series of reimagined princesses, some being carted in their wheelchairs by Prince Charmings, others posing alone as double amputees.

“Have you ever seen a disabled protagonist in a Disney movie?” he asks on his blog, [Humor Chic](#). “You sure don’t because disability doesn’t match Disney standards!”

RELATED: UNREALISTIC ANATOMIES OF DISNEY PRINCESSES REVEALED

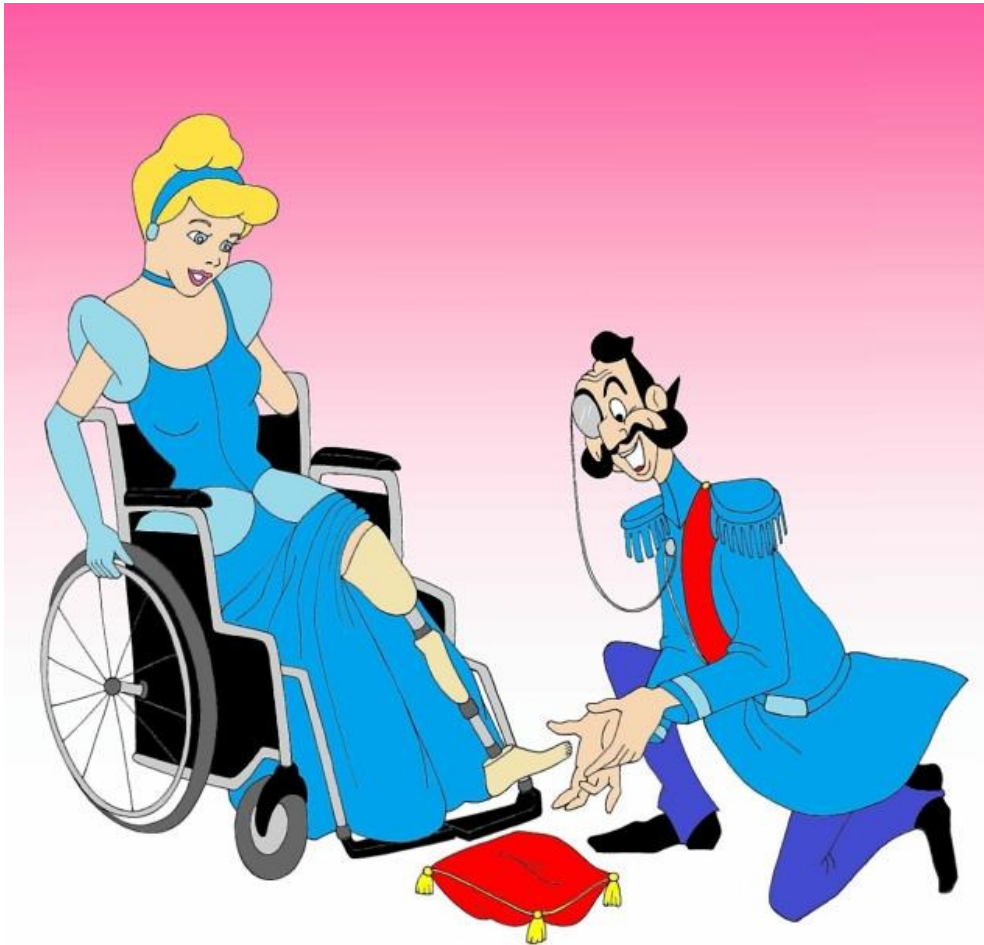


In Alessandro Palombo's world, Pocahontas gets around on crutches.

Experts say the artist's campaign is much-needed.

"One out of every five Americans has a disability of some kind," Carol Glazer, president of the National Disabilities Organization, told the Daily News.

"So when you portray popular iconic figures, like Disney princesses, without any of them having disabilities, you're cutting out 20% of the population."



Cinderella's glass slipper will have to fit on a prosthetic. Artist Alessandro Palombo gave Disney princesses disabilities in a set of new drawings.

Glazer applauds TV shows like “Push Girls” and “Glee,” which put stars who use wheelchairs in the spotlight, and slammed the suggestion the shows are exploitative.

“People who call that insensitive are not really seeing the whole picture of disability,” she said. “All you’re saying is that there’s a broad range of people in this world. And that’s an important message.”



ALEXSANDRO PALOMBO

Princess Jasmine as a double amputee.

Susan Stout, interim president and CEO of the Amputee Coalition, said she would love to see one of Palombo's princesses on the big screen.

"We want everyone to know it is possible to live well with limb loss," she told the Daily News. "A Disney Princess would help raise awareness and, in turn, acceptance of limb loss."

Palombo, known for scandalous sketches of fashion bigs like Anna Wintour and Karl Lagerfeld, explained he launched the campaign to speak out against his own discrimination as an amputee.

"Two years ago I had a rare form of cancer and I had to have it removed," he said. "After the surgery, my upper limb and half lower limb on the left side are paralyzed."

rmurray@nydailynews.com