

Mom's Joy Room

Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

Vintage 100% Sheepskin Mickey Mouse Rug

Handmade, c.1960s–1980s | 40" × 58"

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$150–\$275



Front — dyed genuine sheepskin with Mickey Mouse portrait and natural fur tuft border



Detail — hand-applied dye work and pieced fur border



Reverse — clean cloth backing liner

A rare and charming vintage 100% genuine sheepskin rug in the form of Mickey Mouse, measuring a generous 40 by 58 inches. The playful portrait — Mickey's smiling face with his trademark round black ears — is hand-dyed directly onto the natural cream sheepskin, framed by tufts of long, unshorn wool pieced around the border for a fluffy, dimensional outline. The reverse shows a clean cloth backing liner. A wonderful example of the handmade tourist-export and novelty sheepskin craft of the mid-20th century, and a piece that reads equally well as a floor rug, wall hanging, or whimsical display art.

"Some folks hung art on their walls. The lucky ones hung a mouse made of clouds."

History

The mid-20th century saw a flourishing cottage industry in South America — principally Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina — of handmade sheepskin novelty goods produced for export and tourist markets. These workshops took abundant local sheepskin pelts and transformed them into decorative rugs, wall hangings, hats, vests, and character pieces, dyeing and piecing the natural wool into pictorial designs. Their output ranged from traditional Andean motifs to popular-culture subjects, and character rugs featuring familiar cartoon faces were a recurring — and today, eagerly hunted — category among collectors of both vintage Disneyana and folk art textiles.

Sheepskin Mickey Mouse rugs of this type are documented collector's items, typically stamped or labeled "100% Sheepskin" with South American country-of-origin markings. They were handmade rather than factory-produced: each required a craftsman to select and piece multiple pelt sections, hand-apply the dye to form the character's features, and stitch the backing — making every example slightly unique in its proportions, expression, and fur texture. Their informal, folk-art interpretation of a famous corporate character gives them an appeal quite different from licensed mass-produced Disney merchandise: they capture how Mickey lived in the popular imagination of everyday craftspeople far from Hollywood.

This example is notably large at 40 by 58 inches — many surviving examples are smaller format pieces in the 18

to 35 inch range — which amplifies its presence as a display piece and adds to its rarity. The dye work remains bold and legible, the fur tufts are full and intact, and the backing is clean and undamaged, indicating careful storage and light use over the decades. Comparable vintage sheepskin Mickey Mouse rugs offered at retail typically range from around \$150 to \$250 depending on size, condition, and visual charm, with large, well-preserved examples at the top of that band.

As a cross-collectible, this rug appeals to several markets at once: Disneyana collectors, vintage textile and folk art enthusiasts, and decorators seeking statement pieces with humor and warmth. Genuine sheepskin pieces of this vintage require modest care — protection from moths and prolonged direct sunlight — but reward their keepers with decades more of softness and charm.

Notable Features

- ◆ 100% genuine sheepskin, handmade construction, c.1960s–1980s
- ◆ Large 40" × 58" format — substantially bigger than most surviving examples
- ◆ Mickey Mouse portrait hand-dyed directly onto the natural cream pelt
- ◆ Long unshorn wool tufts pieced around the border for a dimensional fluffy outline
- ◆ Clean cloth backing liner — no holes, stains, or pest damage
- ◆ Bold, legible dye work with strong color retention
- ◆ Works as floor rug, wall hanging, or display art

COLLECTOR NOTES

This rug is attributed to the South American handmade sheepskin craft tradition (Bolivia/Peru/Argentina, c.1960s–1980s) based on construction technique and style consistent with documented examples of this category. Attribution is stylistic; no maker's tag or country-of-origin stamp is visible in current photographs. Pieces of this type were handmade folk interpretations of the Mickey Mouse character and were not part of Disney's official licensed merchandise program — this is part of their charm and collector appeal, but buyers seeking formally licensed Disneyana should note the distinction. Rarity and value are supported by comparable retail offerings of similar vintage sheepskin character rugs.

Sandy Wade

Proprietor, Mom's Joy Room

This certificate accompanies the item at time of sale and reflects research conducted at the time of cataloguing.