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# The Decorated Page: Journals, Scrapbooks & Albums Made Simply Beautiful



## Synopsis

Diehn opens up a new dimension; the artist's vision of visual memories. Consider this a superscript above all other entries. • Booklist. • Encourages those who hesitate to start in on the pristine pages of a nicely bound blank book.... Lively and interesting illustrations make this a good selection for public library collections. • Library Journal.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am a big fan of books, and love art, but not as much a fan of "do-it-yourself" books. This book, however, changed my course in journaling. It describes clearly a process for making an "every day" journal into a piece of art. Gwen Diehn writes and then provides examples of how to create either a simple or an eloquent journal page. She sets a slow and steady pace giving the reader an opportunity to "absorb" the content. Each page builds on the preceding page and its examples are helpmates for either the novice or the experienced artist/journaler to build his/her own skills. She elected to show some very experienced journalers, many of whom I recognize from other art communities, and all of whom are able artists. The book is not intimidating, and it is perhaps its lack of pretense that both delights me, and confuses others into assuming this is a beginner's book. While I may have known some or many of the techniques Gwen Diehn shares in "Decorated Page" I found her re-igniting my desire to do it rather than just think it. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in journaling, collage and altered books. While the book is not necessarily directed to altered books or collage artists, many of the schema are apt for these venues, and certainly they can be easily adapted. This is one of the few books I read "cover-to-cover" and keep next to my

ready read room. I am certain I will be referring back to its text and admiring its content for a good long time.

I'd been holding off on buying Diehn's book until I'd picked up a few that I thought were "more important". So when a friend sent it to me, I was **AMAZED** at how wrong I was about needing others on this subject. Diehn goes through almost every aspect of creating a journal that's unique, personal, and most importantly (to me) **VISUAL**. There are background and layout techniques for those days when you just don't want to do too much drawing, lots of examples that are more inspiring than a personal visit from the Muse, and a **TON** of **SUBSTANCE** -- real ideas for turning your daily logs into works of art that you can flip back through with pride. It answered quite a few questions that I'd still had for a while now (and I wrote a book on visual journalling, so these were big questions), and got me moving in a forward direction again. If you're just starting out, or if you've been keeping journals for what seems like **FOREVER** -- this book **WILL HELP**, **WILL INSPIRE**, and will be **WORTH EVERY PENNY**. Go get it now!

I recently discovered this book at my local library, and have to say that I was amazed by how wonderful it is! Many other books on this topic have been overwhelming to me, showcasing very beautiful books that seemed well beyond my skills. However, this book actually made me feel like I can actually do this myself, rather than just look at others' works. It does a great job covering the basics, including what supplies you can use, how to do basic book modifications, and examples of layouts and the purposes of creating such a journal. The instructions on preparing a book and sample pages are really well done, described in very clear terms with plenty of photos to illustrate each step. I also really enjoyed the various historical pieces throughout the book, to give some idea of how these books have developed over time. I would highly recommend this book, and have to disagree with the review who claimed this book is boring. It isn't! Some of the pieces shown are more simplistic (less cluttered!) than those in other books, but it is a valuable resource for anyone wanting to create an art journal or altered book.

I journal in the straightforward way with a lined journal, pen, and my thoughts. While I enjoy getting my words and impressions on paper, I often feel as if there is something missing from my memories - that there is something I can be doing to make my journals go from being average to amazing. Enter **THE DECORATED PAGE**...you will be challenged to create lasting pieces of artwork within your journal pages and in the process evoke more feelings than you ever thought possible. I

have often seen books with creative journalers' pages presented in a "look-see" kind of way, but never thought I'd be capable of making such pages myself. Gwen Diehn presents lists of supplies you need to get started and many methods of creating within your pages such as mandalas, cut-outs, grids, and others. She also shows different ways to present your thoughts within your writing. You will be inspired to use this book as a springboard for your own artistic and thought-provoking journal entries.

There are many wonderful books on how to create handmade blank journals, but not much is shared on how to use them. This book fills the void, with both practical guidance on techniques and beautifully reproduced pages to inspire further. While certainly accessible to the beginner, I don't agree that this book is useful only to that group. I consider myself an "advanced" art journaler, and gobbled this book up! When done, I had enough new ideas to keep me busy for a year. Highly recommended.

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