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# The Complete Decorated Journal: A Compendium Of Journaling Techniques



## Synopsis

Now two of the most successful books by Gwen Diehn, *The Decorated Page* and *The Decorated Journal*, are bound together into one comprehensive and inspiring volume. The combined contents offer readers an unmatched collection of great ideas and techniques, from the latest supplies (papers, adhesives, paints, pens) to innovative layouts (mandalas, diagonals, cutouts, grids). Sidebars highlight specific genres, such as pillow books, nature journals, and illuminated manuscripts. Plus, newly added content includes journaling artist profiles along with galleries of their work, new techniques, and a new project where readers learn to make a journal from a butter box.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for *Live & Learn: Real Life Journals*: "This is a lovely, helpful volume that will inspire and attract journalers and scrapbookers alike." --"Booklist" Top 10 Crafts & Hobbies Books for 2010 "You can't miss with this book--for you or for the journaling wannabe on your gift list." --"Cloth Paper Scissors"

Gwen Diehn has exhibited her artwork internationally and has worked in many private and public collections, including the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington. She has taught college art as well as workshops for many years and is the author of numerous books, including *Making Books That Fly, Fold, Wrap, Hide, Pop Up, Twist & Turn* and *Simple Printmaking*. Her most recent book, *Live & Learn: Real Life Journals*, was listed as one of the top ten crafts books of 2010 by Booklist.

This book has gone above and beyond all my expectations. Years back I bought THE DECORATED PAGE by Gwen Diehn, and it became one of my favorite books to look at for inspiration when I was wanting to put together a journal or sketchbook. Now a few years down the road and I have taken up art journaling. So, how perfect that the author has made this compendium which puts these two crafts together where they belong. This book is not lacking in anything as far as I can tell. ( I've only had the book a few hours!!) But it has tons of wonderful eye candy, as well as tips and ideas to make your project unique to your own style. If you already own one of these two combined books, or even if you own both, Diehn does include a generous amount of bonus material. Personally, I just really like having the one book to go to for both topics. I don't think you will be disappointed. I find the information found in this ( these) books are unrivaled to others out there of this genre.

I love Gwen Diehn's approach to art journaling. If this is your first exposure to her work, you won't be disappointed. The artist profiles are worth the cost of the book. If you can find a copy of the original, out-of-print book, The Decorated Page, buy it. The illustrations are larger, the organization is easier to follow, and every page is a work of art. The original book opens flat, but the new version doesn't. I had a hard time finding some of the information from the original book, even though I knew it had to be included. The organization is a bit confusing in this new book, and the table of contents didn't help.

Absolutely the best book on journaling and mixed media technique that I own and I have several. Diehn discusses a thorough list of materials, including substrates and their properties such as archival qualities. She also describes various glues, pastes and various binders with information on their effect on paper curling, etc. She goes on to write about paint, inks, and homemade adhesives, paints and papers. And those are just the technical items. From that point on we get to the fun stuff and the book is full of fun stuff including wonderful photographs of journal pages, examples of paint testing, and illustration. The author gives examples in clear, concise step form and each step includes an accompanying photo. The book includes profiles of other journal artists and their work and a brief history of how they got into journaling or how their journaling has evolved. Again, with each sample journal page there are steps on how that page was created. I can't imagine what Diehn can possibly write next, but I will purchase it!

This is my "desert island" journaling book! I have collected a lot of art, craft, and writing books, including about at least a dozen journaling books. This book contains more helpful and interesting material than any other book I've read. The price is a steal as it is cheaper than many of the 120 page books out there (for some reason craft books are rarely longer than 120 pages) and contains 2 books (previously published separately) plus bonus materials. I love that Diehn has a less-is-more attitude about art supplies and unlike other books doesn't use hers as a platform to advertise products. (Many books and most craft magazines waste a lot of pages trying to convince readers that they need specific brands of art supplies to even start making art.) She even teaches you how to make your own supplies from natural materials! The knowledge presented here is encyclopedic, but also a joy to read and very inspiring. Diehn's examples are beautiful and the contributions from other artists are thorough and inspiring. This is not just a book filled with "recipes" for creating duplicates of an author's work, as so many other books are, though there are fun projects to follow along with especially in the book-binding sections towards the end. Everything is meant to be customized to one's own aesthetic and needs. She gives you technical information, history, and techniques that provide a solid learning experience that will help you make visual journals that are your own creations. You will learn the diverse ways that artists and crafters and writers and even scientists use visual journals as tools, as works of art in-and-of themselves and/or as a combination of both. The layout of the book, the photos and reproductions of journal pages are gorgeous (though I think they made a mistake with the cover, which is not as nice as the inside - don't judge it by that! ;>)! The writing is very thorough but a joy to read. There is a lot of interest in journaling these days and there are a lot of books out right now on the subject, many of which are beautiful and inspiring, but if I had to choose only one to have on my bookshelf, this would be the one! If I were going to teach a class on visual journaling (or even on bookbinding) this would be a great textbook. At 2/3 the price of many other art and craft books is an incredible value!

This is a lovely book. Great ideas, and photos that are just a treat to look at. She mentions a book in this book called *The Pillow Book*, by Sei Shonagon, who lived circa 1,000 AD, in Japan. I ordered that book from Amazon, and thoroughly enjoyed it. So, not only do you get terrific ideas for your journal, but recommended reading. Whether you try all or some of her ideas or not, this will be a very nice addition to your library. Inspired!

These were both great books and it's nice to have them all in one. The pictures are totally beautiful and this book is packed with helpful ideas and projects.

Excellent compilation of techniques. Clearly illustrated with tips on how to achieve the different looks/styles. I have it on my coffee table and everyone picks it up, and comments on how nice it is. It is very beautiful! I highly recommend it.

I had the second book out from my local library, was so intrigued and interested that I just had to go and buy it. On I discovered that the first book and the second are in one with this Complete Decorated Journal book and I am thrilled to have it. I can dip into it when ever I like and learn something new about paper and designing journals.

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