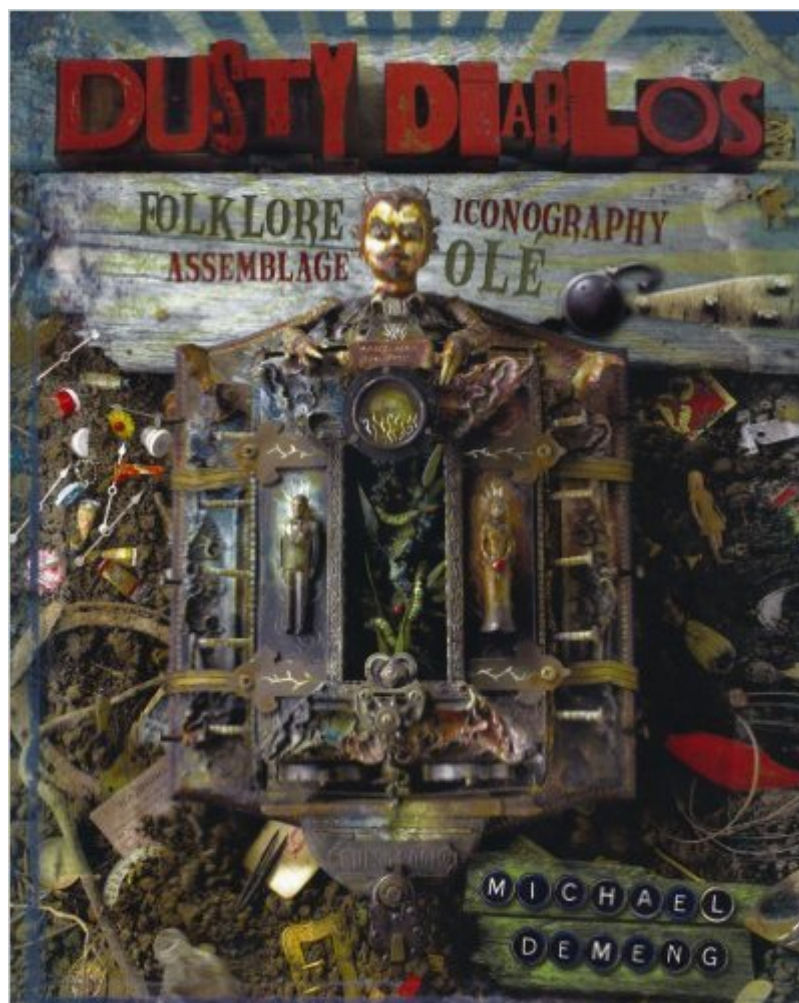


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# Dusty Diablos: Folklore, Iconography, Assemblage, Ole!



## Synopsis

Assemblage ole! Bring your artistic yearnings and sense of adventure along on a journey to the land of Dusty Diablos. Inspiration seeps from every page, and inside here you'll find: a tasty mix of ancient folklore (from the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacán to the miracle witnessed by Juan Diego); colorful pop culture (who knew that Western-Horror was its own film genre or that there's an entire island overrun with misfit dolls?) and informative art-making how-tos (like the Tricky Burnt Paper Routine and crafting your own Nicho). Join author Michael deMeng on an artist's pilgrimage south of the border and experience a culture as rich as it is beautiful and as genuine and down-to-earth as it is humorous and fascinating. While being mesmerized by all the amazing assemblage pieces, you also learn such nifty things as: Mixing up Michael's favorite paint washes to achieve "rusty" results in your own work Crafting your own slithering serpent Creating miniature story boxes Aging bottle caps with beer and so much more! Indulge your senses and come along for a trip through crowded marketplaces, a thrilling taxicab ride and the intoxicating festivities of Dia de los Muertos and discover the allure of Dusty Diablos. You might not want to leave.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Michael deMeng has perfected the craft of writing an art book that is guaranteed to inspire and instruct with an unparalleled combination of humor, storytelling and phenomenal art. Like a magician willing to share his most treasured secrets, deMeng reveals all as you follow him along his artistic journeys enriched by his skilful recounting of Mexican folklore. Extensive photos illuminate the stories and techniques flawlessly while providing a feast for the eyes. His profound insights into the

artistic process will help every artist view their own work with a new perspective and leave readers feeling empowered and encouraged to integrate these techniques into their own work. Like a personal muse, you will return to this book again and again for renewed inspiration and a wealth of ideas in the art of storytelling through assemblage.

First, a confession: I don't like rust. I'm not a fan of steam punk or grunge and this deMented world is not my style at all. That said, I LOVE this book! Michael deMeng is a true artist, but there is absolutely nothing artsy foo-foo about him. He takes his art seriously, but not himself. To read this book is to enter his world. It's like going into your brother's wacky basement la-BOR-a-tory where he tells you fascinating stories about the ratty box of Chiclets in this work or how excited he was to discover how to make rusty bottle caps and why they're so cool. He tells funny stories, drops cultural and historical references (mostly of Mexico) and reveals trade secrets; but most of all he shares his inspiration and enthusiasm. A long time ago I learned that I can truly appreciate things with no need to own them. I can love a necklace without wanting to wear it. Another thing I've learned over time is that the better you understand something, the more you can appreciate it. Reaction to art can be immediate with no real understanding, but in this case, understanding Michael deMeng's inspiration and process has led me to a profound appreciation of something I would never display in my living room. (I wouldn't hang Guernica on my wall, either). Bottom line: this book is a treasure.

I've taken a class with Michael and have his first book. Personally I like this book 100% better! The pictures in this book were a lot clearer and easier to see what was going on. Then I love the fact that he gives his paint formulas which I immediately had to try! I liked the stories as well and felt they were a better fit than the earlier book. All in all I would recommend this book over the first book!

This is another spectacular book from deMeng! The pictures are wonderful and show in great detail his techniques. The descriptions are filled with poignant stories, inspirational experiences (I felt like I was there), great insights into his thought processes, helpful hints and pleasingly humorous anecdotes with just enough reminders to keep safety as a major goal. Even if you are less inclined than him to create artworks as steeped in the macabre, Michael's techniques can be applied to a wide range of art styles. A book that will surely get ragged around the edges from frequent use!

Michael deMeng is the (young and cute!) grand daddy of mysterious looking, beguiling assemblage

art pieces. . . but more than that, this book reveals how he manages to take such odd & ends and create an intriguing work. Most of his work is unified by the effects of paint; paint to age, change the perception, and add depth to anything. He shares his painting techniques, advice, and recipes in this book, and it's well worth the cost of a deMeng class. For the price of the book, it's a steal - so much so, that you'll feel guilty getting so much for so little.

Just as other reviewers, I was very impressed with Mr. Michael Demeng's assemblages and his creative artistic techniques. However, I was most impressed with his knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the Mexican culture. Although his interpretations are darker than what I've done or seen in the past, I certainly appreciate his artistic style and interpretations. It is important to point out that his influences are based on his experiences while traveling in Central and Southeast Mexico, where the influences of direct Mexican native descendants and Roman Catholicism are strongest. Just as in the United States, each region has a different flavor. Having grown in Monterrey, NL, Mexico, I was very familiar with most of the topics he presented, such as "la llorona," the "Dia de los Muertos," the "luchador" movies, "Quetzalcoatl," and especially Frida Kahlo. My only criticism is the use of the word "Ole" in the title, which is really more closely related to the Spanish culture. Mr. Demeng didn't even mention bull fights in the book, where you would most likely hear this term. I wonder if it was his editor whom chose to use it in the title? Regardless, I highly recommend this book.

As a big fan of Mr. DeMeng's artwork and his first book, "Secrets of Rusty Things", I had HIGH expectations of this follow up book...if you can call it that. The depth of his exploration into folklore that is rich with culture and history is second to none and I'm most excited by how he skillfully blends his passion for such lore into incredibly original and creative expression! Certainly not one to bashfully skirt around iconic characters with devious reputations, DeMeng has a unique and brilliant way of injecting humor into all his artistic renderings of such characters. Not only does he encourage you, the reader and fellow explorer, to turn over stones that take you deeper into making art than your run of the mill "pretty collage", but he also offers you so many techniques that you will have no shortage of ideas to try on for size. It may quickly become a blissful sort of obsession. What Pecos Bill was to the Wild West, DeMeng is to the mainstream art community - injecting life, humor and depth to everything he creates. His book will infuse you with such energy, ideas, and skillful guidance, you'll feel ready to take on the obscure and misunderstood folklore in your own mind with the fearlessness that only DeMeng can put on paper.

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