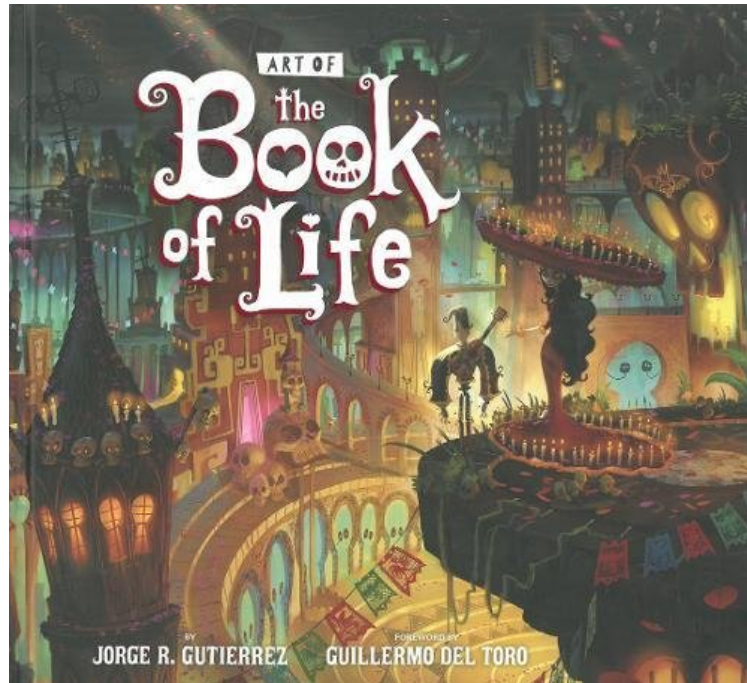


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## The Art of the Book of Life

*Jorge Gutierrez*

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**Jorge Gutierrez : The Art of the Book of Life** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of the Book of Life:

79 of 81 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, vibrant and a bit quirky By Parka[[VIDEOID:mo3R8XGZ82AO5GA]] Here's the artbook for director Jorge R Gutierrez's 3D animated film The Book of Life. Gutierrez was born in Mexico City and raised in Tijuana, and in this 192-page hardcover artbook, you'll see that the inspiration for this film comes from his hometown and the rich history of Mexico. Highlights of the book are the designs for the characters and environment. As far as character designs go, The Book of Life definitely has some of the weirdest and quirkiest designs compared to other 3D animated movies. Their costumes are heavily decorated and lushly coloured. For example, the goddess La Muerte wears a huge red hat with burning candles on top and little skulls hanging around the rim, and the bottom of her red dress is also covered with burning candles. Many characters are actually puppets with exposed joints. Main character Manolo has stars, hearts and skulls plastered all over his boxy costume. Skeleton versions of the characters look great with fanciful skull designs just like how some tribes like to create artworks out of skulls. Even the bull Toro Muerto has its horns intricately carved with symbols. The artworks are very much inspired by Mexican folk art. Gutierrez gets his inspiration from lucha libre, mustaches, street taco stands, bullfighting posters, Spanish comics, spaghetti Westerns, etc. The result is a very colourful and visual world. The environment art for the Land of the Living, Remembered and Forgotten have influences from ancient civilisation such as Aztec, Mayan and Olmec. It's interesting to see the artists use those influences and design them for an animated film. If I don't know anything about the film, I would have thought the civilisation in the film celebrates colour. There are lots of details to look out for. In the Land of the Living, there are

several buildings with shapes inspired by Mayan temples. Tombstones are lavishly decorated with ornaments and offerings. Houses in the town are top heavy just like the characters to make them feel more macho. There are commentary throughout that talks about the designs. The Art of The Book of Life is a wonderful, vibrant and quirky artbook. Highly recommended. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous, beautiful and mesmerizing By gbinnola After seeing the movie, my daughter, who is an illustrator, told me about how most animated movies usually have an "Art of..." book that comes out soon after the film. Being a lifelong lover of Mexico and its culture, especially all things Dios de los Muertos, I immediately checked , and two days later, my book arrived! This is a large, beautifully rendered book worthy of any prominent spot in my home. I've been taking my time and going through a few pages per day, and it has been such a delight 24 of 27 people found the following review helpful. If you only buy one "Art of" book this year By Andy H....make it this one. There's a review here with a video of a guy flipping through the whole book so no one's gonna top that, but I'm just adding my two cents that this book is gorgeous and a must-have for anyone in visual development. It's amazing to see the intricacy and level of detail that went into every aspect of this film's design. What's most striking to me is how closely the final film actually stuck to the style of the static art. It's common to see stylized concept art that gets watered down and homogenized in the final product - not so with The Book of Life. You can tell a lot of heart went into this production and it actually made it all the way onto the big screen. Easily one of the most beautiful and intriguing "Art of" books I've come across.

A tale packed with adventure, The Book of Life celebrates the power of friendship and family, and the courage to follow your dreams. To determine whether the heart of humankind is pure and good, two godlike beings engage in an otherworldly wager during Mexico's annual Day of the Dead celebration. They tether two friends, Manolo and Joaquin, into vying for the heart of the beautiful and fiercely independent Maria, with comical and sometimes dangerous consequences. This volume is an inspirational behind-the-scenes look at the making of the animated feature film The Book of Life, from visionary producer Guillermo del Toro (Pan's Labyrinth) and director Jorge R. Gutierrez (El Tigre: The Adventures of Manny Rivera).

About the Author Born in Mexico City and raised in Tijuana, Jorge Gutierrez has completed various films, cartoons, illustrations and paintings exploring his love affair with Mexican pop and folk culture. He created the multiple Emmy award winning animated television series El Tigre: The Adventures of Manny Rivera for Nickelodeon. The author lives in Los Angeles, CA..