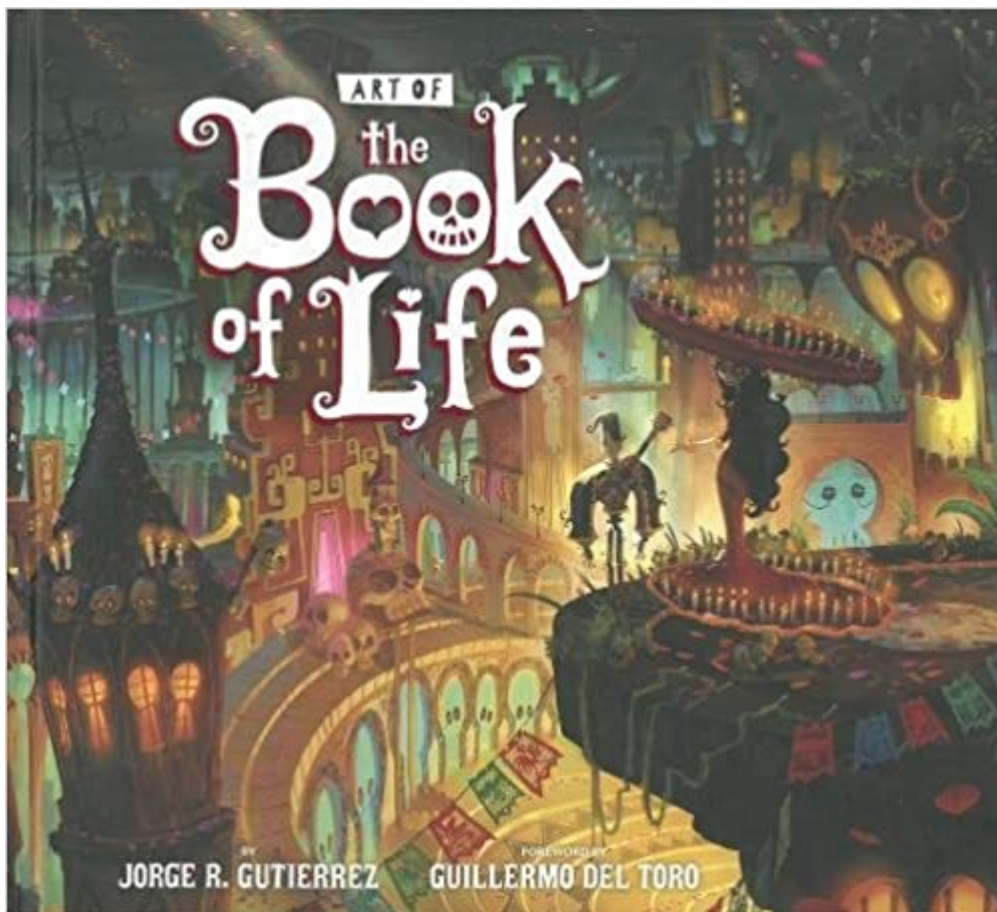


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# The Art Of The Book Of Life



## Synopsis

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*).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 Annie & Emmy award winning animated television series *El Tigre: The Adventures of Manny Rivera* for Nickelodeon. The author lives in Los Angeles, CA..

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.)

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 [it out](#), 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

...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.

Great art book for even those who have not seen the movie. Honestly I got this for the art alone and it's beautiful!

Filled with gorgeous sketches, final models, color and design schemes and many other elements that created the wonderful film. Other than The Art of Epic (Blue Sky Studios) this was my first art book outside the big three (DreamWorks/Disney/Pixar) so I was curious on how it would deliver. While the written material isn't as strong as the ones I've read in other art books, the visuals suffered none and went over my expectation. It's rather thick too! The quality is wonderful and the variety between sketches and fully conceptualized paintings are balanced perfectly. I heard a rumor that it was filled with just screenshots and that is incredibly far from the truth, it is nearly all concept art. Wonderful addition to my collection :')

As a diehard "The Book of Life" fan, this book was a MUST buy. And boy, did it deliver! It arrived at my doorstep while I was on my way out and about, and I took it with me because I couldn't wait to read it! All the pictures are in very good quality (some aren't so good, but that's probably just because no better resolution exists for them) and the commentary was all insightful and funny! Along with getting to see all the concept art, the book holds facts about the world of Manolo that never made it into the movie! A GREAT purchase, especially for someone as in love with Jorge Gutierrez' creative mind as I am!

This is the best artbook I've ever seen. I've always wanted to read all the ideas the staff had at the very beginning and how the characters evolved into the character we see in the movies!! and this one actually shows how they were planned, and made and the different stages of their designs. I really loved the idea of showing this step by step and also to read what was going on in the producer's or director's head before and after the designs!! I simply loved it!! I'm in love with the art and in love with the movie and in love with everything!!! :D If you want to know how the characters are planned and designed and the different stages of the creation of a character, then this book has it all!!! :D

A wonderful art book based on a visual feast of a movie. Complete with character designs and explorations this book is a great resource to have on any artist's book shelf.

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