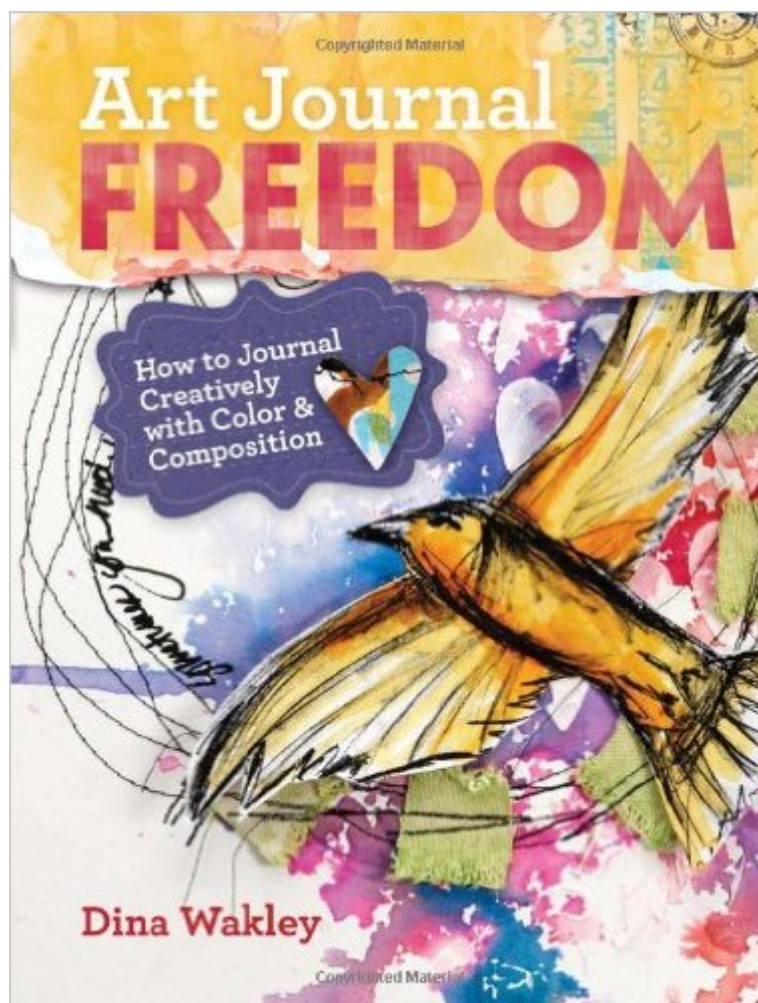


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# Art Journal Freedom: How To Journal Creatively With Color & Composition



## Synopsis

Art Journal Color! Art Journal Composition! Art Journal Freedom! Color is all around us and we often find ourselves drawn to particular combinations or arrangements. But how can you effectively and artistically capture those eye-catching compositions in your art journal? It's true, art journaling has no "rules" and is a safe place for free expression of your one-of-a-kind life. But knowledge is power and knowing the "rules" of color and composition gives you the freedom to use and break them willfully to create the effects you want. Dina shares these principles in a fun and approachable way with dozens upon dozens of unique journal pages to show you just some of the many possibilities. Inside You Will Find: Lessons and tips about composition and color including dominance and repetition, symmetry, contrast and the power of black and white. 10 step-by-step technique demonstrations. Dozens of color and design tips and page challenges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've been a huge fan of art journals for years and finally started working on my own art journals about two years ago. I have read a ton of different books and articles and blogs posts about art journaling and different techniques and approaches. But "Art Journal Freedom" is really in a class all its own. Instead of telling you what you "should" and "shouldn't" do, or telling you there ARE no rules, Dina Wakley simply shares her own approaches to art journaling. Everything from materials to technique to approaches to composition and color is included in this book. I even enjoyed and found inspiration in the "getting started/materials" section, which I normally consider a waste of ink in most art technique books. The one thing to note, though, is that Art Journal Freedom is comprised

ENTIRELY of Wakley's work. So if you are looking for a variety of examples in different styles, you may want to check out Dina's blog and see some of her pages so you know what the book is filled with. But if you love Dina's style and the effortless way she seems to be able to combine different elements and come out with these brilliant, beautiful pages, then you will find SO much inspiration and eye-candy in this book. It's a must for any art journal library.

I pre-ordered this book several months ago - a rare choice for me as I tend to wait and see before purchasing. However I am a true fan of Dina's blog and felt this was a safe bet to pre-order. I was not wrong! This is a superb book. The artwork alone is worth the cover price - I know I will look through this book again and again for inspiration and technique tips. Dina has a fantastic way of explaining techniques and she uses both new and old products, including easy to get items from the local hardware and craft stores. The colours are vivid and engaging - it's actually difficult to focus on reading Dina's text as the journal pages really draw your eye! Dina gives a great overview of materials she uses and there are several excellent techniques included - step by step ideas that I have not seen widely used before. It is clear a lot of hard work has gone into this book and the results are quite spectacular. Congratulations Dina on a wonderful book. In this age of saturation in the art journal book market, you have written one which stands out amongst some very good quality books. I would highly recommend it to both new and advanced art journalists. I hope this isn't the last we see of you in the book market.

Beyond art journaling, this is a book that will help mixed media artists of all sorts. Cards, canvases, even scrapbook layouts can benefit from the lessons within. Broken down into chapters that dig in and explain the basics and beyond, this book is a must. It can be read of course, as all books are, but you can also use this as a challenge source for exercises and use it like a class if you work through the exercises. Beautiful artwork, amazing ideas, and by far the best book I've seen in a long time from the art/craft/mixed media market. Well done Dina!! It was like taking a seminar from her from the comfort of my living room.

Overall, I liked this book and found it to be helpful, especially the portions explaining composition. Even though I already had some knowledge of color theory, she does go into a little more detail than most of the free internet information you can find...so if color is something you struggle with the lessons in here are concise and easy to understand. For me, though, the portion on composition was more useful. I've learned to draw with relative success, but always seemed to have

trouble with collage work (basically it looked like I barfed ephemera onto the page every time I attempted collage...). I've only read through the book, not taking time to actually do the 'lessons' yet, and even with the quick, one-time read through, I've seen a huge improvement in my collage work. The one small complaint I have is that there seem to be a lot of "example" pictures for each idea. I know that some people are visual learners, especially ones who already have an artistic leaning, but I kind of wish that one or two examples were given with each idea and then more information could have been covered in the book. Then again, not going into further information leaves room for more books in the future, so I see that side of it too. My one little complaint shouldn't stop you from buying the book though. Even if your style of art is very different from the author's, the principals are universal and she does a good job explaining them. I know she has another book out soon (or it could already be out, I'm not sure) and, based on this book, I think I will probably end up with her new one as well.

Dina Wakley has designed the an art journaling book that's a good balance of the elements of design, composition and color theory. She explains it all with well written text that's easily understood for the beginning journal artist and a wonderful review for those who have been around the pages. Then she tells you how to break the rules. This is all blended with the how to's. Her technique pages are not only well described but beautifully illustrated. In seeing her process, the reader can begin to get an idea of how that can translate into a personal style. I have taken some of Ms. Wakley's classes. For me this book is a perfect companion and resource to all that I have learned.

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