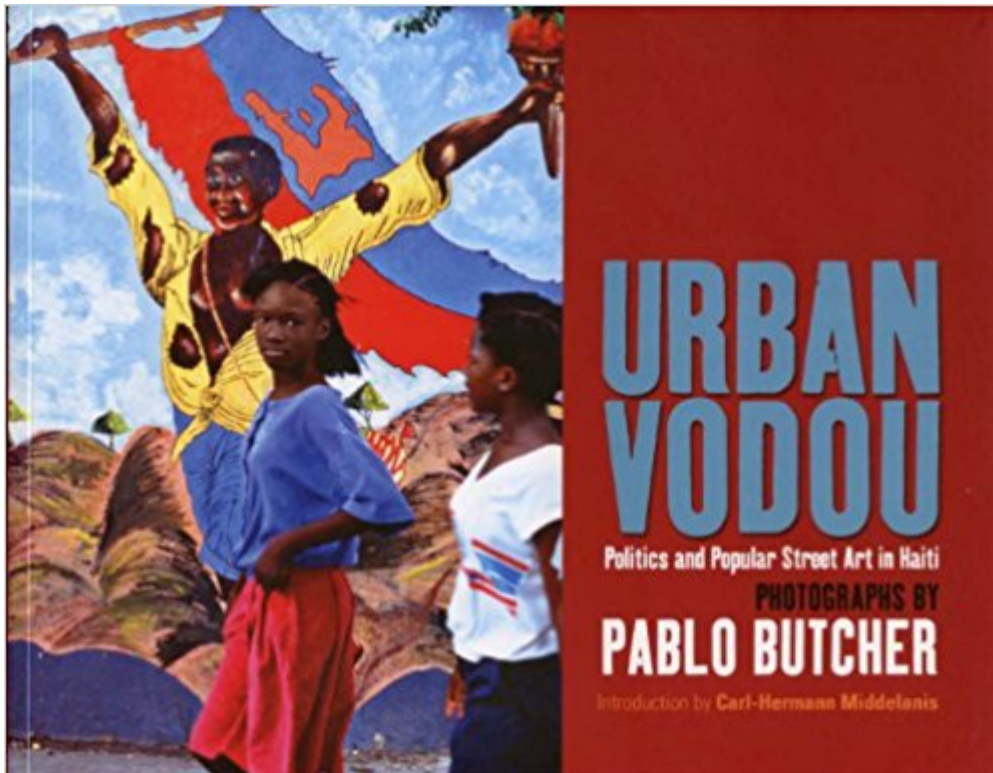




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Urban Vodou: Politics And Popular Street Art In Haiti



Synopsis

The world's media has chronicled Haiti's long history of political instability and social unrest. But perhaps more importantly, Haitians themselves reacted to the cycle of hope and despair in the form of hundreds of spontaneous street murals. Mostly in the capital, Port-au-Prince, these colorful and expressive paintings both recorded key events and articulated the hopes and fears of their creators. Tragically, many of these paintings were among the casualties of the earthquake that struck the island in early 2010.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Urban Vodou, Pablo Butcher's photographic record of Haitian street art has a valedictory tone as most of the murals caught in his lens over the years vanished in the earthquake too. With startling immediacy, the photographs capture a fairground gaudiness and harlequin carnival of colour...

Above all, there is history: the national heroes Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Toussaint L'Ouverture are portrayed with exaggerated peacock plumes and playing-card sabres... Urban Vodou glows with murals of trumpeting angels, mermaid-tailed divinities and sacrificial roosters. As a human chronicle and a tribute to a resilient people, Urban Vodou is a book to be treasured.' --Times Literary Supplement

Pablo Butcher is a photographer living in France and a frequent visitor to Haiti. Carl Hermann Middelani is a German academic with a special interest in Haitian history and literature.

This book is focused around the Aristide-era of Haitian history. Much has changed in the past few years since this book was written, but it does provide an important look at Haitian culture and art. I am doing research on current graffiti and street art, and things are extremely different now than they were just a few short years ago. I also feel that the book was put together as a photo documentary more than an academic look at Haiti. Some of the claims leave much to be desired in the area of support. But it is a nice book to add to a collection on Haiti, art, graffiti, social sciences, political studies, international relations and other areas.

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