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***Dirty Works***by [Kat Avila](#)

*Reviews may contain information that could be considered 'spoilers'. Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

**Publisher****Heavy Metal Magazine**<http://www.heavymetal.com>**Credits**

Author: Lorenzo Sperlonga

ISBN: 1-932413-54-5

Illustrator: Lorenzo Sperlonga

**Grade:** 10

**WARNING:** *The Web sites associated with this artist and his work are not work-safe.*

*"Adam war Gottes erster Versuch. Bei Eva hat er es dann richtig hinbekommen. (Adam was God's first draft. He got it right with Eve.)"*

— Introductory quote in ***Dirty Works***

Following my passion at Comic-Con 2006 in San Diego, I ended up at the **Heavy Metal** booth, my eye caught by the fun and nasty cover of Lorenzo Sperlonga's pin-up book ***Dirty Works***. Flipping through the book, I remarked how beautiful the illustrations were to a smiling model-licious blonde who was sitting kitty-corner to the young man in front of me, who turned out to be the artist himself.

Down to my last dollars I initially walked away from the

booth empty-handed, but Sperlonga's words — "There might not be any copies left tomorrow" — made me do an about-face. I'm glad I did, because this book complements so well the other pin-up book I have, ***The Art of Michael Mobius***.

Where Michael Mobius's fantasy work speaks to me of an icy precision with regard to artistic execution and of untouchable aristocratic women, Lorenzo Sperlonga's acrylics whisper of joy, spiritual and sexual warmth, naturalness, the girl-next-door. It's Mobius's atmospheric (air element, or as Mobius describes it — "a heightened sense of reality") vs Sperlonga's terrestrial (earth element, or his touching up "to make everything more natural"). There is expected master artist overlap.

Sperlonga's subjects look as if they could and want to step out of the frame into your waiting arms (maybe yours; not mine, since I prefer men). Why did I buy this book? you might ask. Because sexy is sexy.

The cover of ***Dirty Works*** is of a blonde fantasy in a skimpy French maid outfit who is cleaning up after a party where all the drunks have turned into mice. She looks back at the viewer with an impish "Ewww!" expression while holding a bespectacled mouse by the tail in a lace-gloved hand.

***Dirty Works*** is Lorenzo Sperlonga's second book, and its 104 pages are mostly filled with acrylic paintings and some pastels done between 2002-2006. This bilingual German-English artbook is dedicated to Julie, the same who posed for the *Freya* peekaboo fairy cover of Sperlonga's 2006 calendar ***Wings***.

There are nine sections in ***Dirty Works***: *Slow Like Honey* (at 54 pages it's half the book); *Mean Babes (with Guns and Blades)*; *Angel Baby* (a wordless comic about a man and his party-hardy guardian angel published by **Hustler Comix** and, later, **Artcore**); *Brown Sugar* (illustrations of writer Chaz David's sexy private detective Smoky Jones); *Card Games* (illustrations for Alderac Entertainment Group, 1998-1999); *Interior Art & Ads; Workshop* (a step-by-step tutorial of how Sperlonga painted the pearly luminescent, bare-breasted angel pin-up *White Wings*); *Statuettes*; and the autobiographical *Once Upon a Time in Italy*.

It's very difficult to choose my favorite Sperlonga pin ups. Besides the cover, I liked the bullet-riddled, shattered glass frame of *Speculum* (p. 10); bound-to-cold steel *Ivy* (p. 17); purple butterfly-winged *The Fairy* (evokes a wonderful feeling of freedom and relaxation, p. 56); pop art muralist *Pure Pinball* (p. 59); and the deadly, pouty assassin in *The Cage* (p. 65).

Now, if I only could find an artist who paints guys like Lorenzo Sperlonga does women....

Written: July 29, 2006

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