



Taschen
A GARDEN EDEN. MASTERPIECES OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION
(IEP)

H. Walter Lack

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Nella ricerca del piacere e della conoscenza, l'arte dell'illustrazione botanica ha sempre richiesto non solo una **meticolosa abilità nel disegno** ma anche una **rigorosa conoscenza scientifica**. Questo volume della collana Bibliotheca Universalis celebra la tradizione botanica e i talenti di questo settore dell'illustrazione con una selezione di opere eccezionali provenienti dalla **Biblioteca Nazionale Austriaca**.

Dai **manoscritti bizantini ai capolavori del XX secolo**, ricche di meravigliose peonie, calle e crisantemi, queste raffinatissime riproduzioni incantano per l'accuratezza e la qualità estetica. Che sia attraverso **foglie delicatamente vellutate, frutti resi meticolosamente o per lo splendore e la varietà dei colori**, questo volume è l'omaggio a una forma d'arte tanto delicata quanto precisa, oggi più che mai attuale data la crescente consapevolezza della fragilità dell'ambiente che ci circonda e dell'importanza vitale del mondo naturale.

L'autore:

H. Walter Lack è professore presso la Freie Universität di Berlino e fino all'agosto 2014 è stato direttore dell'Orto Botanico e Museo Botanico di Berlino. Autorevole esperto di storia della botanica, si occupa principalmente delle ripercussioni del trasferimento globale di piante utili e ornamentali dal punto di vista della storia della cultura. Per TASCHEN ha pubblicato *A Garden Eden* e *Il libro delle palme*.

La collana

Bibliotheca Universalis – Compatte guide culturali che celebrano l'eccellente universo TASCHEN a un prezzo democratico e imbattibile! Da quando abbiamo intrapreso il nostro lavoro di archeologi della cultura negli anni '80, il nome TASCHEN è diventato sinonimo di editoria accessibile a tutti e mentalità aperta. Bibliotheca Universalis raccoglie quasi un centinaio dei nostri titoli più amati di sempre in un nuovo e pratico formato che, senza alleggerirvi troppo le tasche, vi consentirà di allestire la vostra libreria di arte, antropologia e aphrodisia.

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On the diversity of the plant kingdom

The idea for the project *Garden of Eden* arose on 11 September 1998 in the Staatsbibliothek (State Library) in Berlin. This was the opening day of the exhibition *A Century of Music: Vienna 1797-1897*, organized by the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library) and opened in the presence of the library's Director General, Dr. Hans Marte. In conversation, the author drew to the attention of Dr. Marte the fact that the library of which he was in charge also possesses an extraordinary wealth of botanical works - manuscripts, prints, pictures and wax models. The idea quickly formed to exhibit these objects (little-known even among experts) in an exhibition in the Great Hall of the Austrian National Library. It was easy to come to an agreement with Dr. Marte on the fundamentals: to focus the project on masterpieces of botanical illustration, but with no temporal, spatial or thematic restrictions; not to include loaned material, all the easier since there is such a wealth of outstanding pieces at the library's disposal; also to display notable material from as many departments of the Austrian National Library as possible.

While the idea for an accompanying volume *Garden of Eden* was considered from the beginning, it only assumed concrete form after the author met Dr. Petra Lamers-Schütze of TASCHEN Verlag the following year. She was immediately full of enthusiasm and was also able to communicate this to the publisher, Benedikt Taschen of Cologne. Also on this occasion it was easy to come to an agreement on fundamentals. It was decided that the project should give pride of place to the illustrations; that the texts should be printed in English, French and German; and that the volume should above all convey pleasure in the diversity of the plant kingdom in general and in masterpieces of botanical illustration in particular. Generous illustration would enable the reader to leaf through valuable works.

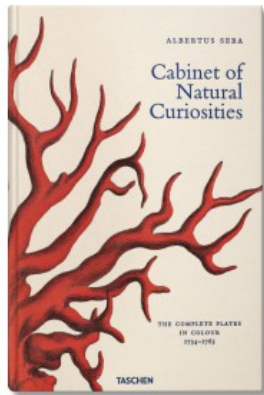
What followed took place partly in Vienna, partly in Berlin, and partly in Cologne: the selection of objects by the author and the photographic work carried out by the studio of the Austrian National Library in Vienna, the writing of the text by the author in Berlin, and the layout by Dr. Petra Lamers-Schütze in Cologne. In this phase of the project a central role was played by Mag. Anton Knoll, then head of the Department of Public Relations and Exhibitions at the Austrian National Library, and by the homepage of this institution - many questions were resolved from Berlin via the electronic route. Brigitte Beier edited and coordinated the texts with Thierry Nebois. With his characteristic drive and enthusiasm Mag. Anton Knoll subsequently supervised the mounting of the exhibition "A Garden Eden".

This volume aims not only to display the masterpieces of botanical illustration of the Austrian National Library, but to demonstrate, through a cross-section of time, space, themes and techniques, how human beings, with their capacity for critical thought, observation and drawing,

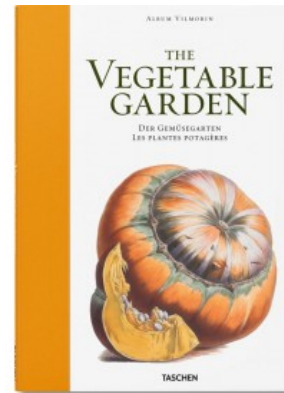
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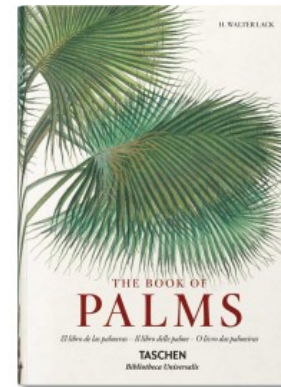
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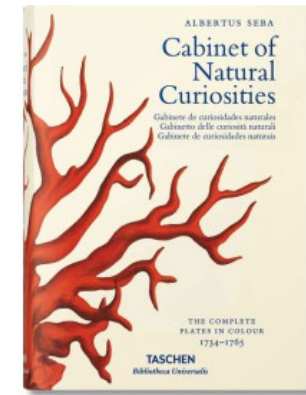
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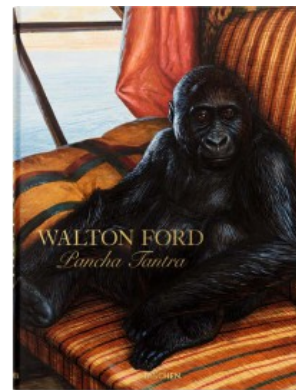
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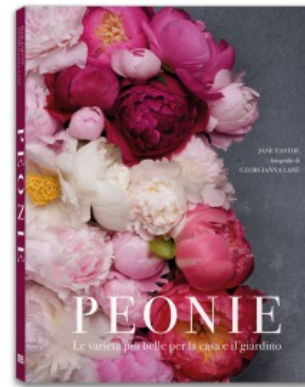
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