



The Golden Age of Flowers

Celia Fisher

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The 17th and 18th centuries saw a flowering of botanical illustration and witnessed the production of some of the greatest books of plant illustration ever produced, including such outstanding examples as the Hortus Eystettensis, the work of Maria Sybilla Merian, Thornton's Temple of Flora, Banks's Florilegium, and Sibthorpe's Flora Graeca. In this beautiful book, Celia Fisher has selected more than 100 of the most stunning flower images from this period, and each plant has its own brief biography, giving the context in which it was discovered and the personalities who first named and nurtured it. Many of the flowers in the book are now familiar, while others remain very exotic. Some of the illustrations are appealing for their naive delicacy but most have never been superseded in scientific accuracy, and they remain one of the best proofs of art and science as complementary disciplines.

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