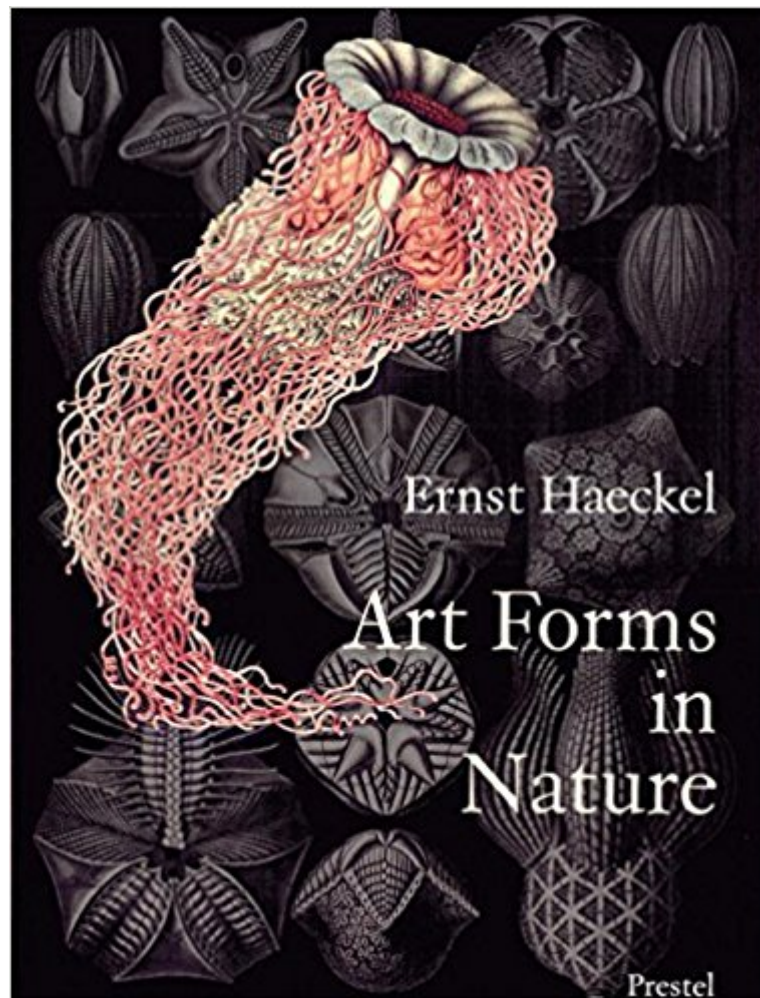




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Art Forms In Nature: The Prints Of Ernst Haeckel



Synopsis

The geometric shapes and natural forms, captured with exceptional precision in Ernst Haeckel's prints, still influence artists and designers to this day. This volume highlights the research and findings of this natural scientist. Powerful modern microscopes have confirmed the accuracy of Haeckel's prints, which even in their day, became world famous. Haeckel's portfolio, first published between 1899 and 1904 in separate installments, is described in the opening essays. The plates illustrate Haeckel's fundamental monistic notion of the "unity of all living things" and the wide variety of forms are executed with utmost delicacy. Incipient microscopic organisms are juxtaposed with highly developed plants and animals. The pages, ordered according to geometric and "constructive" aspects, document the oneness of the world in its most diversified forms. This collection of plates was not only well-received by scientists, but by artists and architects as well. Rene Binet, a pioneer of glass and iron constructions, Emile Galle, a renowned Art Nouveau designer, and the photographer Karl Blossfeld all make explicit reference to Haeckel in their work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every biology student knows Ernst Haeckel as the originator of the "Biogenetic Law": ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny. Haeckel was a passionate student of the evolutionary shaping of biological forms, and *Art Forms in Nature* captures both his artistic sensibility and the scientific rigor he applied to all his studies. First published in 1904, *Art Forms in Nature* is a glorification of function and form, a demonstration of organic symmetry that has nothing--and everything--to do with nature as it actually exists. Each plate exhibits organisms carefully arranged and exquisitely detailed, "a

symbiosis between decorative sketches and descriptive observations of nature," as Olaf Breidbach states in his fascinating introductory text. The radiolarians, medusae, rotifers, bryozoans, and even frogs and turtles lovingly recreated here are gorgeous and self-explanatory, rendered in delicate, filigreed lines, and colored gently with muted green, delicate pink, and sepia. Art students will appreciate the designs found in nature--scientists will love the evolutionary statement of form inherent in the beauty. --Therese Littleton

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

Well written and illustrated

The book contains over 100 plates of stunning, crisp artwork by Ernst Haeckel. He is amazing. The foreword is informative of his process and the purpose of the book, and gives some insight on how this book helped Darwin in his theories. It's awesome to know that these two greats knew each other. The book contains images of mostly plants and sea life that demonstrate the geometric patterns in nature. The color is flawless, the pages are thick and sturdy, and each image is amazing. There are no pixelated, poorly blown-up images in this book. If you're an art lover like me, or seek drawing inspiration, this is a book for you! It's a perfect coffee table book. I wish there were more explanations of the creatures in this book, but even with almost no text, the book stands out!

I am absolutely amazed by both the quality and content of this gorgeous book. *Art Forms in Nature* contains 100 pages of Haeckel's art of radiolaria, algae, and a few other plants and animals, beautifully printed in high quality on heavyweight paper. This is a great coffee table book, sure to be appreciated by anyone with interests in art or natural sciences. Most of the art is colored or shaded, but even the few black and white pieces are outstanding. Each page of Haeckel's art is breathtaking, and the 20 page introduction puts his work in context for Haeckel's time and ties it to modern day discoveries. I highly recommend this book, and I wish I had bought it sooner!

Simply amazing. I first saw this book in a Gaudi gift store in Barcelona. Awed by how the creations of Antoni Gaudi were inspired by nature, I returned from my visit and bought this right away. The illustrations are awesome! This is a great resource not only for artists and nature lovers, but also anyone who needs a bit of "refreshment" to get their creative juices flowing. I'm a designer, my husband's a chef, and this book will definitely be one of our go-to creative bibles.

Beautiful book.

Amazing prints

Love it. The book includes beautiful quality prints and some background information on the artist.

Its a really nice book. The illustrations are amazing. Im very happy with the purchase!

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