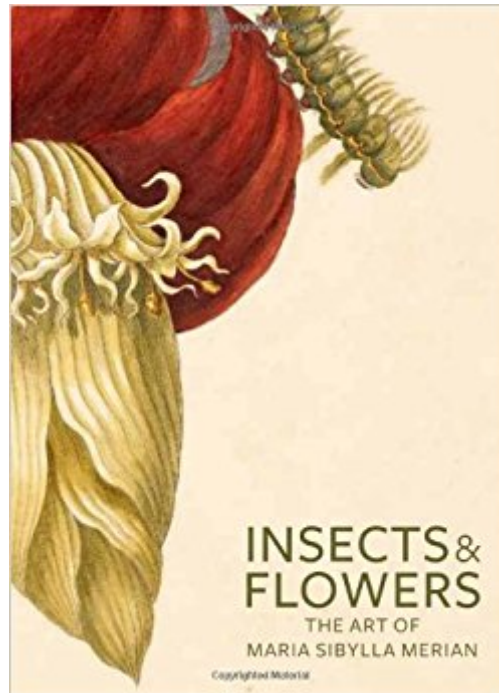




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# **Insects And Flowers: The Art Of Maria Sibylla Merian**



## Synopsis

The artist and scientist Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717) was born in Frankfurt, Germany, into a middle-class family of publishers and artists. With her meticulous depictions of insect metamorphosis, she raised the standards of natural history illustration and helped give birth to the field of entomology. At the age of fifty-two, Merian traveled with her younger daughter to Suriname, a Dutch territory in South America, to paint its exotic flora and fauna. Many of the drawings produced by Merian in the South American jungle were later published as hand-colored engravings in her book *Metamorphosis of the Insects of Suriname* (1705), which brought her widespread fame. A copy of the second edition is held in the collections of the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute. *Insects and Flowers*, a delightful gift book that reproduces vivid color details of sixteen plates from the Getty's copy, is a vibrant encapsulation of Merian's book and features an engaging essay on Merian's life and work as well as an insect and plant identification guide. An exhibition of Merian's work will be on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum from June 10 through August 31, 2008.

## Book Information

Paperback: 52 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"The close-ups found in *Insects and Flowers* reveal, in lush color, the way she captured a whole world on a tropical branch." —Kim Todd, author of *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*  
"Authors David Brafman and Stephanie Schrader enlighten readers with a fascinating biography of the artist-scientist and a guide to the identification of the specimens illustrated in her engravings." —National Garden Clubs,

Inc. – “Insects and Flowers will have special interest to floral designers and flower lovers.” – BellaOnline.com

David Brafman is curator of rare books at the Getty Research Institute. Stephanie Schrader is assistant curator of drawings at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

I read about a recent exhibition of her work and wanted the catalog, but it had to be shipped from Europe (at the time I was looking for it) and was quite expensive. I was very happy to find this tiny little book which is beautifully printed and offers up some very fine examples of her work. If you're interested in botanical art and in women's history, this is a nice addition to that teetering pile by your reading chair.

I understand the ire of many reviewers in realizing that the book is pint size. I, too, felt cheated when it came in the mail. But the detail pics inside are worth something and I'm appreciating what is there, rather than focusing on what is not. Have to agree, tho, this should be more like \$5.95.

What's included are only tiny portions of large beautiful drawings.

What a total waste of money. I can not believe that I was not smart enough to read the reviews on this totally worthless piece - shame on me. I would be ashamed as an author to put something out like this. Almost laughable - you got me!!

Small, cheap and lackluster "booklet". The size was too small for the work to be fully appreciated. Each print is centered squarely in the crease. One could easily disassemble the book for viewing, but the juxtaposition of the illustrations make that senseless. Paid WAY TOO MUCH. Probably should have been priced at \$1.95.

It is a tiny book. I didn't realize the book wasn't even as big as a paperback book - so while the illustrations are indeed beautiful, they appear to be closeups of the works, so you don't see the full piece. I would gladly have paid more for a book that showed the full works with the addition of closeups, but a tiny book with closeups? I feel a little ripped off, honestly. Imagine buying a book of Picasso's paintings, and when you open it, you only see portions of the paintings. Ugh.

As per the previous reviews - Format too small & images "defaced" by poor printing choice. Why would I expect the Getty museum (Getty publications) to print a book in a format so poorly suited to these images. Moral of the story is "read reviews". Lesson learned.

I was pretty disappointed with this book. I bought it as a present for my sister-in-law and when it came in the mail it was tiny! I was expecting a normal sized book but this was more along the lines of a pamphlet. Perhaps I just missed the sizing information in the description.

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