



Botanica Magnifica: Portraits of the World's Most Extraordinary Flowers and Plants

W. John Kress, Marc Hachadourian

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Botanica Magnifica features two hundred and fifty stunning photographs by Hasselblad Laureate Award winner Jonathan Singer, representing rare or exotic plants and flowers in large scale and exquisite detail, emerging from the shadows in a manner evocative of Old Master paintings.

The original edition of *Botanica Magnifica*, consisting of five lavishly hand-bound volumes, was limited to just ten copies, the first of which was recently donated to the Smithsonian Institution. The extra-large double-elephant format of that edition was chosen in homage to the famous double-elephant folio of *The Birds of America*, and indeed, *Botanica Magnifica* is one of the few works of natural history ever to rival Audubon's magnum opus in its scope and artistry. In praise of the double-elephant folio of *Botanica Magnifica*, the Smithsonian's Chairman of Botany attested, "Everyone who has seen the photographs . . . has been tremendously impressed with the power, scale, and depth of the work."

Now Singer's remarkable images are available to the public for the first time in this baby-elephant folio of *Botanica Magnifica*. Like the larger edition, this volume is organized into five alphabetically arranged sections, each introduced by a gatefold page that displays one extraordinary plant at a luxurious size. Each pictured plant is accompanied by a clear and accessible description of its botany, geography, folklore, history, and conservation.

This volume is also available in a leatherbound, slipcased edition. With its marvelous reproductions and fascinating text, the baby-elephant folio of *Botanica Magnifica* is one of the most impressive volumes of natural history ever published.

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