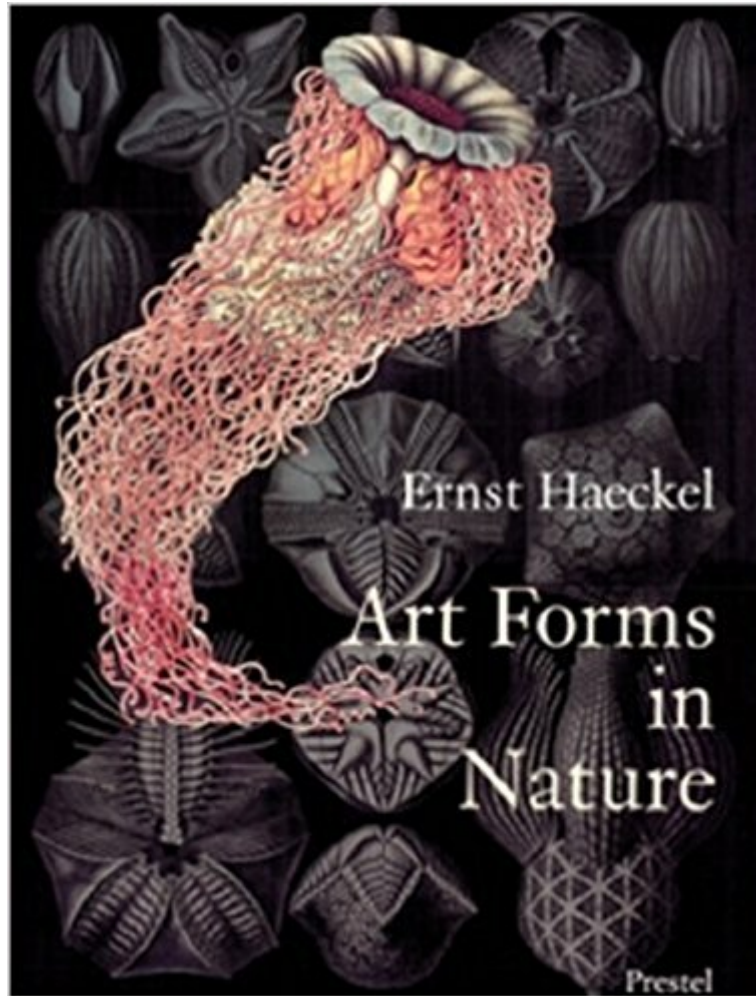


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# Art Forms In Nature: The Prints Of Ernst Haeckel



## 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

Length: 3:36 Mins

Video shows the size of the book, flipping through a lot of the plates and rambling.

The illustrations are awesome, there's a universe of beautiful complex lifeforms that are too small for us to see. The illustrations are all in color, unlike other versions of Ernst Haeckel's prints, and it

also has lots of text in the front about Ernst Haeckel's work, an autobiographic timeline in the back etc... Unbelievable art

This is such a lovely book, I just HAD to let all you readers know. I didn't know anything about Haeckel (never even heard of the man.....), when I ordered this book. I just loved his drawing of the Medusa on the cover, and couldn't resist buying it, and boy, am I glad that I did..... There is such a quiet beauty in these plates. The book is also published by Dover (see my review there), without any accompanying text (apart from a short publishers's note), and with all the plates printed in black and white. In this book, many of the plates are printed 'in color' (either different hues of one color, or a color scheme based on two colors). The book also has a highly informative article on Haeckel and his times, and on those that were influenced by him. I find it very hard to explain what exactly makes these plates so wonderfully beautiful. It is partly the symmetry of their composition, and the way in which they render the beauty of nature. The article in the book itself describes it very well: "What is it that Haeckel depicts here that is so beautiful? It is the beauty of ornament. The forms illustrated in these pages seem to fit seamlessly into the repertoire of Art Nouveau forms. [.....] Haeckel's approach did not determine Art Nouveau, instead Art Nouveau's approach determined Haeckel's. What ensued was a symbiosis between decorative sketches and descriptive observations of nature [...]." If you are looking for a book on Haeckel and his plates, get this one!

Right now i am giving this 3 stars. I may up that to 4 stars with more information<sup>1</sup>. Ernst Haeckel. Great stuff, fascinating, awesome pictures. About this there can be no doubt, and in general this is 5 star stuff.<sup>2</sup> People are saying the art is pristine, but i am not sure i am seeing that. I can see blurriness in here and i am not sure the colors are representative of the originals. The coloring of the medusa on the cover is fairly different from the original in the plates in the book. None the less, i have read the other versions available are often B&W and maybe i have too high expectations?<sup>3</sup>. Here is my biggest complaint, and where someone can maybe guide me and i may up my review. I am half way through the front matter. There are references to Haeckel's text about the plates. Where the heck is Haeckel's text? Is it not included? Do no versions have the translation of his text??? Also, the section in the back that does provide some detail on the plates in several languages doesnt always seem to provide a clear english explanation of what i am looking at - often the more common name of the organisms doesnt seem present - often times i understand the french taxonomy more than the english. Even if Haeckel's original text isnt fully explanatory (which i get the impression it isnt) why go to the trouble of printing such a fascinating book without a better

explanation of the plates? Why not tell me what group of animals is portrayed, and what parts of them are in the various parts of the pictures. The front matter talks about select plates (eg, the center of one illustration is the fish, the outer pictures are of scales; we are only looking at skeletons of radiolarians; various parts of the pictures depict certain aspects of algae). Providing a clearer guide to what is what would seem a natural for a reprinting of this book.

...As others have reviewed the images, this review is about the physical characteristics....The quality, in the Prestel edition, is good enough for framing if you want to take the book apart. It is printed in Germany on acid free paper, of decent weight, unlike the Dover edition, which has no color plates.

This is a lovely book, though a bit on the lean side. It's a good sampler of Haeckel's work, the printing is well done with thick pages and a non gloss finish. Great for the coffee table or reference.

Just received this book today amongst about 12 other art books and I can't yet put it down. Made my best friend cry the images are so beautiful. Many unique plates to study, each a stunning masterpiece.

I'm not kidding when I say this book has changed my life. Visually stunning, unimaginably beautiful.

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