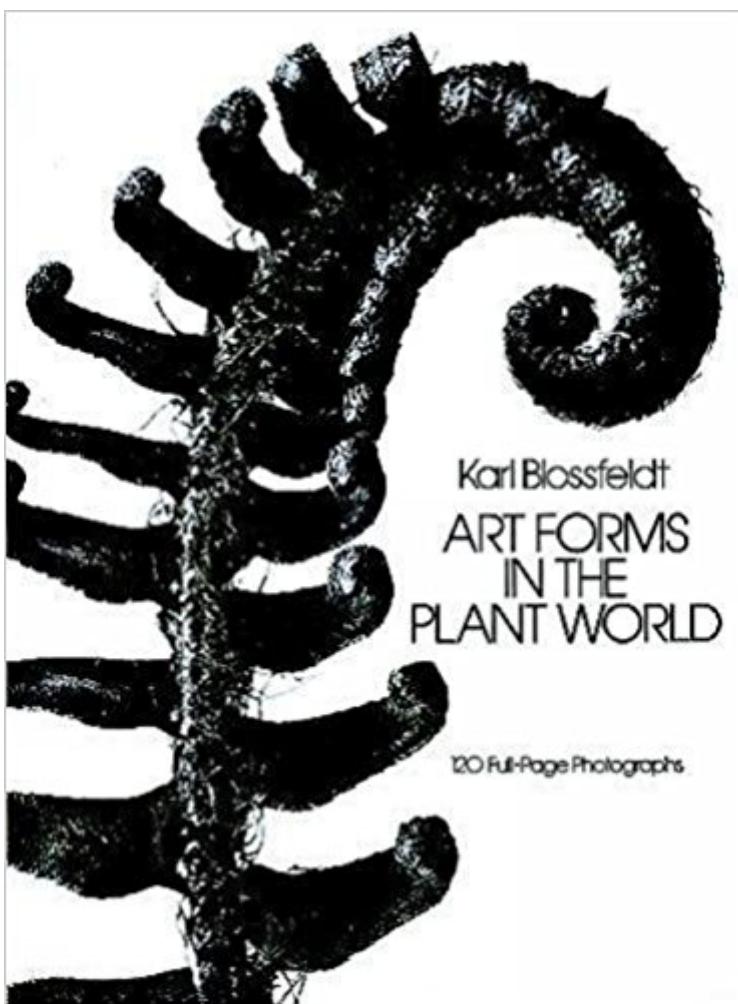


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# Art Forms In The Plant World: 120 Full-Page Photographs (Dover Pictorial Archive)



## Synopsis

At first intended as personal reference material in his work as sculptor and teacher, the remarkable nature photographs of Karl Blossfeldt (1865–1932) attained critical acclaim in 1928 when he published *Urformen der Kunst* (Archetypes of Art). His work influenced and helped to establish modern German photography. While the style of the time was soft-focus, impressionistic photographs, Blossfeldt's purpose governed his photographic method and resulting magnificent prints: direct lighting to define form, sharp focus to expose detail and texture, enlarging up to 27 times actual size to reveal structure that previously was invisible or overlooked by the naked eye. His subject matter – the leaves, buds, stems, seed pods, tendrils, and twigs of plant life – sparkles with an honest simplicity and clarity that discloses not only the wonder and science of nature, but also the distinct similarities between the form developed by nature and that produced by man. In the infinite variety of form in the plant world, Blossfeldt found many examples of shape and structure that, when photographed his way, resemble the forms of man's artistic (particularly architectural) styles – from Gothic through Art Nouveau. His images imply that man's art mirrors nature and suggest that nature, in its continuous reproduction and adaptation, also creates its own art. Blossfeldt's exquisite and historically important photographs continue to be prominently exhibited and acclaimed throughout the world. Painstakingly reproduced for this edition, his 120 unretouched plates will delight artists and illustrators, naturalists and philosophers, photographers, and anyone who is intrigued by the beauty, form, and design of nature.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Pictorial Archive

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Dover ed edition (January 1, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486249905

ISBN-13: 978-0486249902

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.3 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #100,807 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Clip Art #55 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History #91 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife

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## Customer Reviews

At first intended as personal reference material in his work as sculptor and teacher, the remarkable nature photographs of Karl Blossfeldt (1865–1932) attained critical acclaim in 1928 when he published *Urformen der Kunst* (Archetypes of Art). His work influenced and helped to establish modern German photography. While the style of the time was soft-focus, impressionistic photographs, Blossfeldt's purpose governed his photographic method and resulting magnificent prints: direct lighting to define form, sharp focus to expose detail and texture, enlarging up to 27 times actual size to reveal structure that previously was invisible or overlooked by the naked eye. His subject matter—the leaves, buds, stems, seed pods, tendrils, and twigs of plant life—sparkles with an honest simplicity and clarity that discloses not only the wonder and science of nature, but also the distinct similarities between the form developed by nature and that produced by man. In the infinite variety of form in the plant world, Blossfeldt found many examples of shape and structure that, when photographed his way, resemble the forms of man's artistic (particularly architectural) styles—from Gothic through Art Nouveau. His images imply that man's art mirrors nature and suggest that nature, in its continuous reproduction and adaptation, also creates its own art. Blossfeldt's exquisite and historically important photographs continue to be prominently exhibited and acclaimed throughout the world. Painstakingly reproduced for this edition, his 120 unretouched plates will delight artists and illustrators, naturalists and philosophers, photographers, and anyone who is intrigued by the beauty, form, and design of nature. Unabridged and slightly altered republication (1985) of *Art Forms in Nature*, published by E. Weyhe, New York, 1929. (First German edition: *Urformen der Kunst*, Verlag Ernst Wasmuth A. G., Berlin, 1928.)

The quality of the printed images is not very good. I was hoping for glossy paper and crisp images. The paper used was not high quality, and the images are somewhat blurry. However, for the price, I think it is fine, but I foresee using it more as a reference to find better reproductions of images I like rather than as a book that I would enjoy perusing regularly.

A nice book but the reproductions are not very sharp.

I was expecting crispy photos of professional quality with good levels of contrast to define edges, variation, etc. of the forms photographed. Instead most of the photos are somewhat blurry and of

low-contrast, mostly grays, leaving depth to be inferred and not readable. I admit that I'm disappointed.

Great, portable reference and inspirational book for the creative photographer or artist. Not as extensive as the original, now out of print, hardcover book by Blossfeldt, but a good alternative.

Karl Blossfeldt's imagery conjures up strange imaginary worlds. An absolute must have for artists searching out unusual organic forms as inspiration. Straight forward full frame B and W shots make photo copying or scanning a breeze. Gaudi, and Ernst along with the Brothers Quay come to mind.

the reproductions are low contrast and not very nice -- i'd rather have photocopies! will look for a better copy...

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