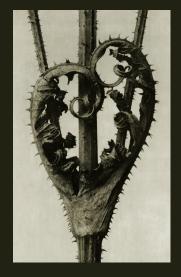
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INTRODUCTION

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Karl Blossfeldt: Nature as Art

Left Ageratum

Right Carya Ovata

02



Unknown Universe

The projection of vegetal life into technical forms follows the ritual of a magical spell. Objects, alienated and increasingly threatening in their rigid power since Goethe's day, are fixated—and held by the eye of the camera-until their rigidity seems to dissolve into familiar forms. That is one version; the other interpretation is that the viewer, haunted by technology, capitulates and changes sides. In the mimicry of a humble glance backwards, he believes to recognize that the new forces were already at work in the old vegetal forms archaic ornamental elements. The feelings that accompany these glimpses vary, depending upon what predominates—the hubris of the spellbinding gaze or the humility of transformation.

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Our eye need only become a bit sharper, our ear a bit more receptive; we need to take in the taste of a piece of fruit more fully; we should be able to tolerate more odors and become more conscious and less forgetful when touching and being touched—in order to draw consolation from our immediate experiences which would be more convincing, more paramount, and truer than all the suffering that could ever torment us.

This wrote Rilke to Princess Marie von Thurn und Taxis Hohenlohe after a year of world war (September 6, 1915). Tragedy and calamity are to be offset by an exertion of the senses, a sensibility devoid of personal interest. The personal aspect must recede so that the essence of things may unfold within the observer.

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Chapter 1 Beginnings

Chapter 2 **TEACHING**

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06

Left Chionodoxa

Right Euonymus Alta





07

Left Euphorbia Pulcherrima

Right Festuca Glauca





Left

Hochschule der Kunste

Right Hydrangea



Chapter 3 **RESOLUTIONS**

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Left Iris Reticulata

Right Kalmia Latifolia

Karl Blossfeldt: Nature as Art



Rooted in Structure

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With this idealistic premise, the "new way of seeing" braces itself against the experience of subjective impotence in the face of the technical and as is increasingly the case in our century, ideological powers that are so overwhelming. It is feared that the things themselves cannot be changed; relief, and above all consolation, must therefore be sought in a change of perception:

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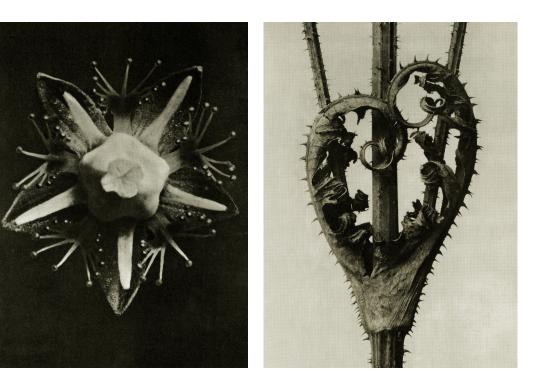
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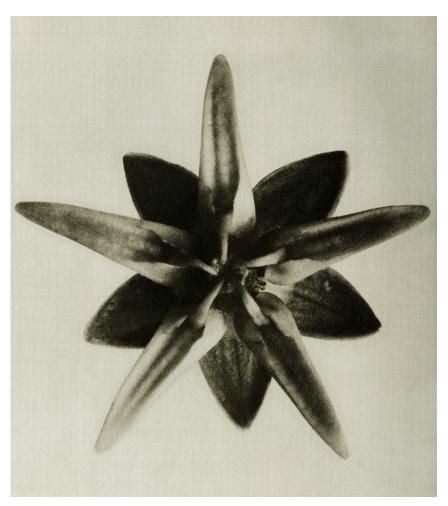
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Chapter 3 Resolutions

Left Liriope Spicata

Right Moholy-Nagy





Left

Nepeta Cataria

Right

Oxalis Regnellii



Chapter 4 BALANCING

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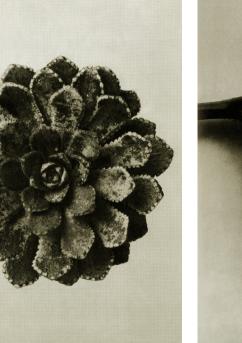
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Karl Blossfeldt: Nature as Art



Right Salvia Splendens

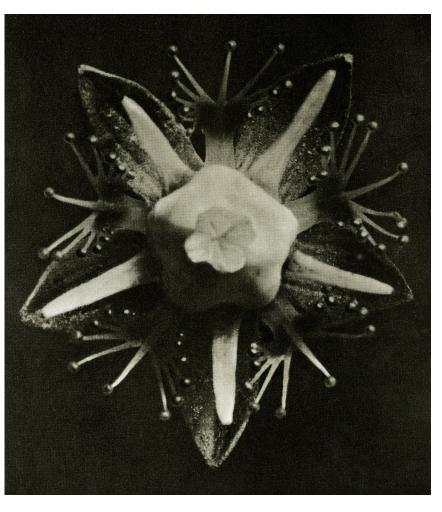




Left Scilla Siberica

Right Tanacetum Vulgaris



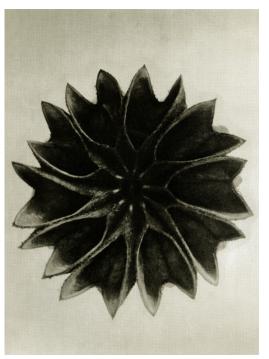


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Left Viola Sororia

Right

Wisteria Sinensis



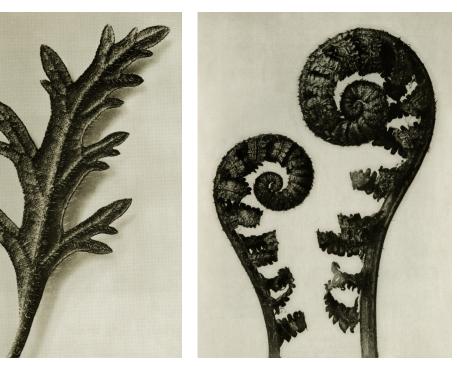
Chapter 5 GROWING

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Left Anchusa Azurea

Right BerberisThunbergii



Photosynthesis

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Chapter 5 Growing

Left Digitalis Purpurea

Right Bougainvillea





Left

Juniperus Horizontalis

Right Papaver Orientale



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