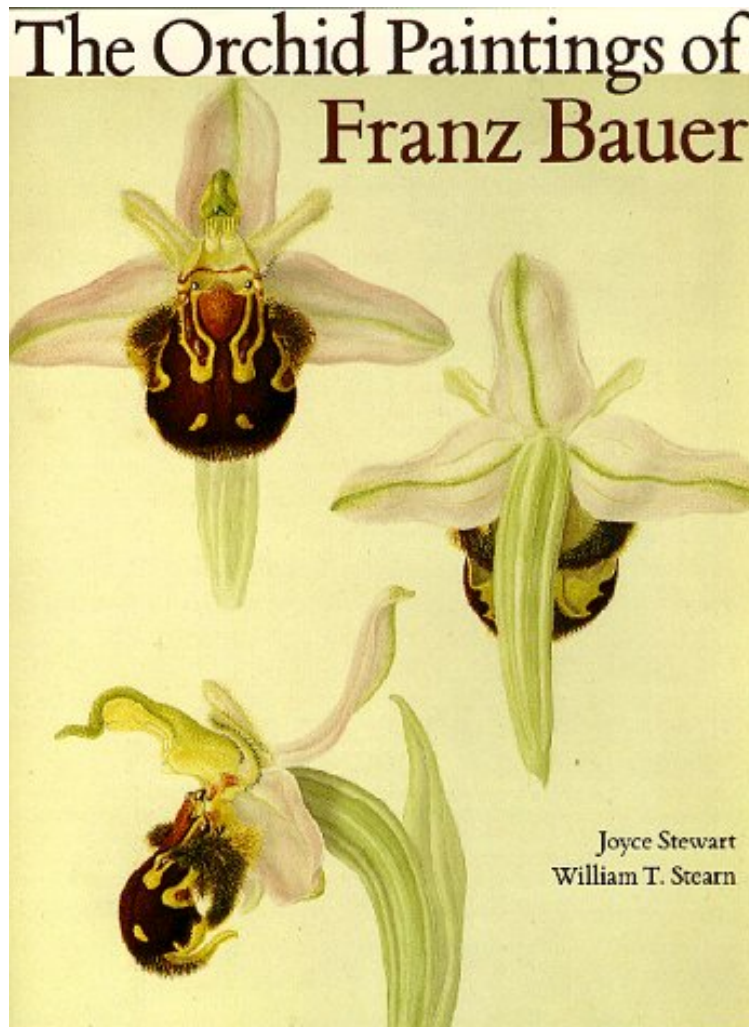


The Orchid Paintings of Franz Bauer

Joyce Stewart, William T. Stearn
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Joyce Stewart, William T. Stearn : The Orchid Paintings of Franz Bauer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Orchid Paintings of Franz Bauer:

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Simply BeautifulBy Angel LeeThis is a wonderful book packed with over 50 full-color paintings of many orchid varieties. By examining the orchids closely you get to see their true beauty. This is a great reference tool for any orchid lover or botany student. The book starts out with a history of the artist himself. Then the structure function of each class of orchid is examined. Detailed black white paintings accompany this discussion. The orchid painting themselves are spectacular. Each section is shown in vivid detail. The Latin common names as well as the orchid's distribution, history a written description are located adjacent to the

paintings. Some of my favorite paintings include the lady slipper, king orchid, golden donkey, marsh helleborine. I intend to purchase another copy of the book, so I can cut out the artwork frame it for decoration.

A contemporary of Redoute, Franz Bauer (1758-1840) has been considered by many experts to be the greatest of all botanical artists. Yet this book is the first to gather together and reproduce any collection of his work. Until now, with a few exceptions, his paintings of orchids and his many hundreds of studies of other plants, have lain hidden away in a few institutions, most notably the Natural History Museum in London and the University of Gottingen in Germany. Bauer was born in Austria, but lived and worked for fifty years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where he was employed by Sir Joseph Banks as resident draughtsman. The Kew collection developed rapidly during this period and gave Bauer an unrivalled opportunity of studying new plants as they flowered for the first time. He became fascinated in particular by orchids and used his microscopic skill to explore and portray their detailed structure. Sixty-three superb colour reproductions of almost all his completed orchid paintings, including many beautiful enlargements of flowers, here exemplify his artistic genius. They represent European species as well as introductions from North America, Australia and the Tropics. The commentary on the history of the plant and its cultivation which accompanies each plate is by Joyce Stewart, the Sainsbury Orchid Fellow at Kew, who also provides a section on the structure and function of orchid flowers. The distinguished botanical historian, William T. Stearn, contributes a biography of Franz Bauer. For all those who love, grow or study orchids in gardens, greenhouses or the wild, as well as everyone who appreciates the best in botanical art, this is an exceptionally appealing book.