

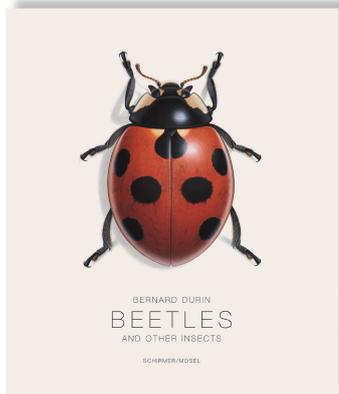
Munich, November 2013

PRESS RELEASE

A feast for the eyes: Tiny bugs up close!

The fantastic insect paintings of Bernard Durin

They look like apparitions from a science fiction movie, yet they are so realistic, precise, and perfectly drawn to scale that entomologists and biologists are filled with awe and even use them as visual aids for study purposes—the huge, colorful insect portraits by French painter and illustrator Bernard Durin (1940-1988), whose collected works have just been released by Schirmer/Mosel.



Bernard Durin

Beetles and other insects

With an introduction by
Gerhard Scherer,
entomological texts by
Gerhard Scherer, Michael Balke
and others

140 pages, 60 color plates

ISBN 978-3-8296-0632-5

€49.80, US \$ 59.95, GBP 49.95

In addition to the scientific precision for which they are renowned, the sixty paintings contained in *Käfer und andere Kerbtiere (Beetles and other Insects)* also hold a psychedelic dimension in store for the viewer, a dimension which feeds on the unbelievable, and at times uncanny, plethora of colors and shapes which evolution has bestowed upon the class *Insecta*. As a representative of the species *Homo sapiens*, one may feel a little like an underprivileged cousin—at least from an aesthetic point of view.

In contrast to their actual size, Durin presents his subjects as giant blow-ups that are capable of evoking astonishment as well as fear and admiration. If they are initially reminiscent of horror-movie archetypes, the initial shock gives way as soon as one discerns the creatures' incredible precision and beauty.

These are without question the “crown jewels of creation,” and Durin's paintings open our eyes to the fact. Furthermore, each of the illustrated insects and its behavior are described in explanatory texts prepared by entomologists from the Zoologische Staatssammlung München, thereby making the pertinent biological data available to the reader.

As a specimen book of natural forms, *Käfer und andere Kerbtiere* follows in the tradition of Basilius Besler, Karl Blossfeldt, Maria Sybilla Merian, and Aloys Zötl and their scientific works on plants and animals. Bernard Durin deservedly joins the ranks of typological photographers August Sander and Bernd and Hilla Becher in the Schirmer/Mosel lineup.

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