



Insects of Surinam

Maria Sibylla Merian,
Taschen, \$99.

At a time when few women were educated or literate – and rarely travelled – German-born naturalist and artist Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717) made history with her studies of insects in Surinam. Trained as a copperplate engraver and watercolourist, she made 60 engravings illustrating the metamorphosis of butterflies, arranging each stage of development around the cultivated and wild plants she encountered on her travels. First published in 1705, the book laid the foundation for modern entomology. This reprint with commentary by eminent German biologist Katharina Schmidt-Loske pays homage to Merian's pioneering work and offers an opportunity to appreciate her sumptuous engravings.

