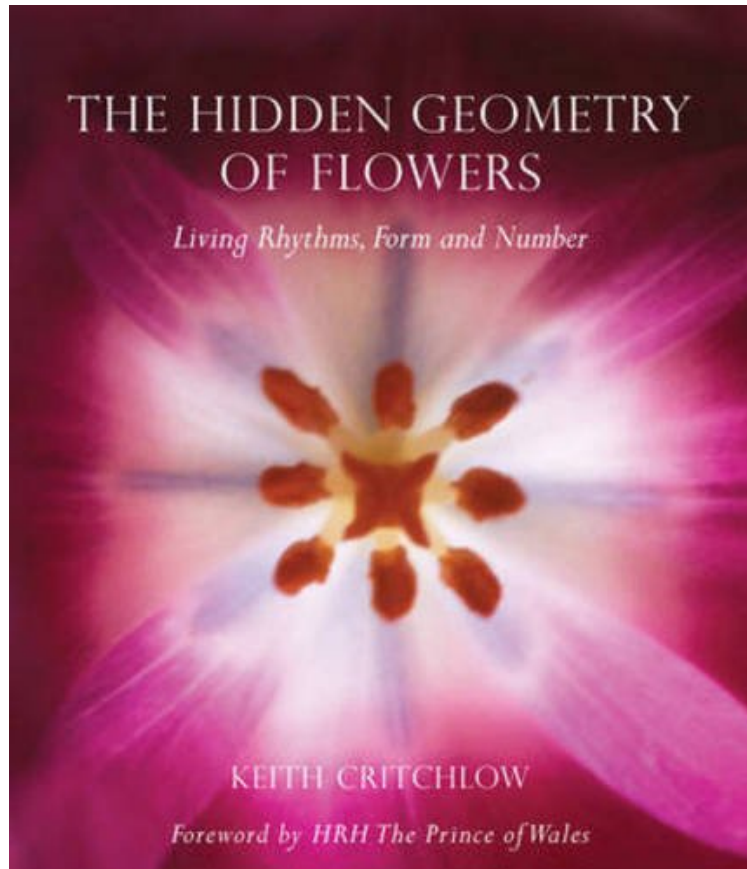


The Hidden Geometry of Flowers: Living Rhythms, Form, and Number

Keith Critchlow

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Keith Critchlow : The Hidden Geometry of Flowers: Living Rhythms, Form, and Number before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Geometry of Flowers: Living Rhythms, Form, and Number:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Design Reference or Coffee Table ClassicBy Reed MooreThis is the most comprehensive compendium of geometric floral design I have ever seen. The book is beyond anything I imagined.It is written with such style to act as both a visual guide and an inspiration to explore the mystery beyond the beauty of flowers. It is a standard to which all books of this genre should aspire.I purchased it to supplement my understanding of geometry in order to improve my fundamental skills and understanding of theory as an artist. It is so very much more!Photographs that accompany the text are reproduced in the quality one would expect in a "coffee table" book, with vibrant colors, and often full page. Perhaps most impressive is the subtle correlations made as the text, photos and geometrical diagrams are arranged on the pages to stimulate understanding of the geometrical perspectives.I would recommend it as a fundamental part of your collection, you will not be disappointed.11 of 11

people found the following review helpful. Filled with beauty and great information
By G. L. Frost I have this book and have gifted it to others. We all have found it filled with wonderful and inspiring information with high quality pictures and geometric diagrams. The explanations are full and detailed while supported in lengthy research. This book has strengthened our connections with the beauty of the whole of creation and the universe. The book walks the line between the metaphysical and the science of nature and the rhythms of life. So much more to learn with this reference.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quite a lovely book, and well-wrth the money
By Sue Ellen Wolcott This book is gorgeous! It is well put together, the paper feels good, the photography is excellent, the geometry is awe-inspiring, the text is informative and well-written (although a little small for my taste) and it makes me happy all the way round ... sigh.

Can we imagine a world without flowers? Their beauty offers us delight in their color, fragrance, and form, and their substance offers medicinal benefits. Flowers also speak to us in the language of the plants form, provide cultural symbols in different cultures, and, at the highest levels, offer inspiration. In this beautiful and original book, renowned thinker and geometrist Keith Critchlow focuses on an aspect of flowers that has received the least attention. The flower becomes a teacher of symmetry and geometry (the eternal verities, as Plato called them). In this sense, Critchlow tells us, we can treat flowers as sources of remembering ways of recalling our own wholeness, as well as awakening our inner power of recognition and consciousness. What is evident in the geometry of a flowers face can remind us of the geometry that underlies all existence. Working from his own flower photographs and with every geometric pattern hand-drawn, the author reviews the role of flowers from the perspective of our interrelationship with the natural world. His illuminating study attempts to re-engage the human spirit in its intimate relation with all nature.

'I've been looking at plants all my life and it's one of my great pleasures, Keith Critchlow's book adds new dimensions to this enjoyment and shows how number and geometry are made manifest in the forms that we see in every garden, in wild flowers and in the cut flowers that decorate our rooms ... The plentiful illustrations help make this a book of inspiration and insight.' -- Dr Rupert Sheldrake 'This is less a book for what we call "reading" than a book to be lived with as a delightful and instructive companion for a long time. It is a fascinating book, full of things useful and pleasing to know. And I admire the honest circularity of its plot that begins in mystery, passes through much knowledge, and returns again (in fact again and again) to mystery.' -- Wendell Berry 'I have been waiting thirty-five years for this book.' -- Julian Barnard, author of Bach Flower Remedies: Form and Function 'Like many people, I've been eagerly awaiting the publication of this book, and I have to say that it has been a real delight finally to read its inspirational thoughts and also to contemplate the large number of beautiful images and geometrical diagrams that it contains ... The Hidden Geometry of Flowers is a wonderful gift to the growing number of people who, dissatisfied with the impoverished and disenchanting worldview of materialistic science, are seeking to relate to the spiritual in nature once again. It is also a major contribution to the holistic science of the plant world, complementing studies by Goethean and anthroposophically inspired researchers into the formative forces at work in the plant kingdom ... Anyone who gives proper attention to [this book] will feel that they are indeed brought closer to the mysterious form-creating life-processes that emanate from the world of spirit, and for this reason it is an enormously valuable contribution to all who are endeavouring to work towards a more holistic and spiritual awareness of the plant world.' -- Jeremy Naydler, New View 'Keith Critchlow has created a masterpiece, which speaks not only through his inspired and informative text, but also through 560 color [sic] illustrations combining his superb flower photography with hand-drawn geometric patterns. The result is a celebration of the geometric lawfulness of flower forms that embody universal spiritual archetypes ... The Hidden Geometry of Flowers is absolutely a must-read book for anyone who wants to be inspired by and appreciate the cosmic forces and archetypes that bestow the qualities we so cherish in each flower, and in their extraordinary healing qualities as flower essences.' -- Warren Kenton, Flower Essence Society 'This book is a definitive work on the geometry of the relationship between Nature and the Cosmos. Its text and extraordinary set of photographs and diagrams indicate that there is a Divine Plan that governs the physical dimension as well as the hidden universes beyond. Professor Critchlow's masterpiece is the product of a lifelong labour of love and observation, illustrated with many of his personal drawings ... As well as being informative and eye-opening, reading this book is refreshing, like a visit to paradise. --- Z'ev ben Simn Halevi, Caduceus 'In the quest to reconnect with the natural world, we need go no further than appreciating flowers for the beauty and hidden geometry that they encompass. In his elegantly presented large-format book, Prod. Keith Critchlow includes over 500 breathtaking colour photographs, illustrations and hand drawings to go with his engaging text ... Beauty is the language of flowers, and Critchlow helps entice us into their unfolding, spiralling domains to discover a higher realm of contemplation. Beauty really is truth, as this magnificent work shows.' -- Nexus 'This remarkable and beautiful book is the culmination of years of research into the nature and geometry of flowers, drawing on the author's extensive understanding of Platonic philosophy as a means of expressing and understanding the Good, the Beautiful and the True ... Reading the book is a form of living education which means that you will never respond to (I did not say look at) flowers in quite the same way again. This is highlighted by the Prince of Wales in his foreword, when he talks about the perception of beauty as

a resonance with the patterns which we ourselves are made of. The result is a feeling of harmony, the subject of the Prince's own book.' -- David Lorimer, Network , Winter 2011 'Critchlow takes four different perspectives to explore how flowers connect us to deeper truths: material, social, cultural and inspirational. His thesis is illustrated with striking photos of plants, together with drawings, diagrams and quotes from Eastern and Western writers, classical philosophers and religious teachers ... This book reads like the unfurling of a lifetime's observation, and afterwards you look at the whole world differently, not just the garden.' -- Garden Design Journal 'I eagerly awaited the publication of this book, and I have to say that it was a real delight finally to read its inspirational thoughts and also to contemplate the large number of beautiful images and geometrical diagrams it contains ... [The book's] analyses open one's eyes to the extraordinary ability of flowers to harness and express geometrical forms and proportions. They open one's eyes, that is to say, to an underlying order and harmony that are intrinsic to the natural world ... through contemplating the geometrical analyses in this book, the reader is directed in wonderment towards this vast domain of ordered and ordering forms ... The Hidden Geometry of Flowers is a wonderful gift to the growing number of people who, dissatisfied with the impoverished and disenchanting world-view of materialistic science, are seeking to relate to the spiritual in nature once again. It is also a major contribution to the holistic science of the plant world ... [it] is an enormously valuable contribution to all who are endeavouring to work towards a more holistic and spiritual awareness of the plant world.' -- Temenos Academy 'In his summary he contends that "flowers have been so instrumental forming human ideas of paradise." His notions are supported by a broad range of illustrations that celebrate the great beauty of flowers in a variety of forms.' -- Chicago Botanic Garden website 'At over 400 pages, this is a long work, but it is full of superb illustrations, providing instant appeal... it is also a book of substance as far as the writing is concerned... I consider this to be a book which will "grow" on the reader -- to extend the flower analogy -- and it is full of memorable quotes, which the mathematically challenged reader (like me), or the newcomer to the perennial philosophy, can hold on to while waiting for full understanding to emerge. -- Quest: Journal of the Theosophical Society in America

About the Author Professor Keith Critchlow is a well-known lecturer and author and a founding member of Research Into Lost Knowledge Organization (RILKO), a founding member and Director of Studies of Kairos, and a founding member and President of the Temenos Academy. He is Professor Emeritus and founder of the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts Programme at the Royal College of Art, now the Princes School of Traditional Arts. Trained as a painter, Critchlow discovered geometry intuitively. A period of intensive geometric practice (and work with Buckminster Fuller) led him to the recognition that the universal principles of geometry are revealed and confirmed both by the area of design where art and mathematics meet and in the study of nature and ancient and medieval sacred cosmological stone, temple, cathedral, and mosque architectures. Keith Critchlow has been a senior lecturer at the Architectural Association in London, and has taught Islamic Art at the Royal College of Art. He has also participated as geometer in various sacred architectural projects. His books include Islamic Patterns: An Analytical and Cosmological Approach (1999); Time Stands Still: New Light on Megalithic Science (2007); and The Hidden Geometry of Flowers: Living Rhythms, Form, and Number (2011).