

ATLAS *of poetic* BOTANY

FRANCIS HALLÉ

This *Atlas* invites the reader to tour the farthest reaches of the rainforest in search of exotic—poetic—plant life. Guided in these botanical encounters by Francis Hallé, who has spent forty years in pursuit of the strange and beautiful plant specimens of the rainforest, the reader discovers a plant with just one solitary, monumental leaf; an invasive hyacinth; a tree that walks; a parasitic laurel; a dancing vine; and the *Rafflesia arnoldii*, the biggest flower in the world, with a crown of stamens and pistils the color of rotten meat that exude the stench of garbage in the summer sun. Hallé's drawings, many in color, represent an investment in time that returns a dividend of wonder more satisfying than the ephemeral thrill afforded by photography. The *Atlas of Poetic Botany* allows us to be amazed by forms of life that seem as strange as visitors from another planet.

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The MIT Press
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142
<http://mitpress.mit.edu>

978-0-262-03912-3



Printed and bound in Spain Cover illustration © Francis Hallé

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