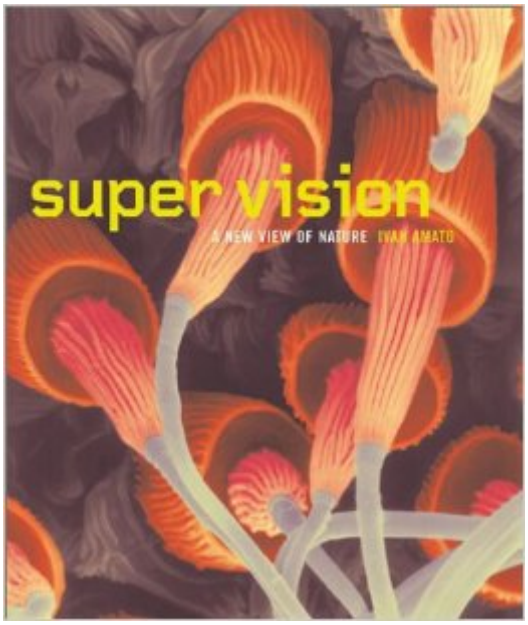
Super Vision: A New View Of Nature



Synopsis

What does nature really look like? Scientific instruments enable us to see far more of the physical world than ever before. These devices can register millions of invisible colours, look back in cosmic time some 12 billion years, peer behind and within seemingly opaque barriers such as skin and bone, and capture events that last a mere trillionth of a second. In this volume, images of scientific interest and of beauty are accompanied by Ivan Amato's descriptions, which shed light on the images themselves as well as the technologies that created them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the most beautifully illustrated photo books I've ever seen. Ranging from the submicroscopic to the macroscopic and even cosmic in scale, the book presents hundreds of spectacular photos of different aspects of our world and universe. They range from the geometrical perfection of a matrix of metallic crystals, to the delicate tracery of a microbial colony, to amorphous, bloblike, and menacing looking cancer cells, to the graceful symmetry of a galaxy floating in the vastness of space.Every photographic method you can think of is represented (including many I couldn't have thought of), including ordinary light photography, x-ray, infrared, plane-polarized, electron microscopy, magnetic resonance imaging, and a photo of Washington, D.C. using something called Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar.In addition to size, the time scales range from subatomic particles that only last a few trillionths of a second to photos of distant galaxies whose light has been travelling for 14 billion years to reach earth. The text is also clear and concise

and non-obtrusive and doesn’t detract from the visual presentation of the photos. Overall a beautifully illustrated photo book just to browse encompassing the many wonders, young and old, big and small, and animate or inanimate, of our world.

From protons to parsecs, Ivan Amato’s "Super Vision" reveals what many scientists know: the universe is a visually stunning place. This remarkable collection of images, coupled with Amato’s compelling captions, shows the art that can be found in science. Thanks to advances in instruments ranging from atom smashers to telescopes, combined with unprecedented computer power, the phenomena of the cosmos can be painted in vivid color. Scientists use these images in their daily effort to understand the universe; we can enjoy them for pure aesthetic pleasure. Covering 42 orders of magnitude (powers of ten), "Super Vision" shows us the abstract swirls of a decaying particle, the eerie machinery of a spider’s spinnerets, how zebrafish scales can look like a Balinese hillside, and the tortured faces of distant planets. For a guide to the art in our natural world, this is the book. It’s as beautiful as the universe it describes.

I can’t remember another book combining scientific insight with artistic beauty quite this way. The author has painstakingly selected, arranged, and captioned stunning scientific images. Whether for the coffee table or to actually read and learn something, Super Vision is a winner.

The concept of this book is an excellent one, trying to encompass views of our universe from the the most minuscule to the colossal. Although many of the images or similar ones could be found in other publications, to have them in a single volume, as Super Vision does, is a wonderful project.Some of the illustrations appear to be unnecessarily large. What is offered in extra-size, with poor resolution and some blurring, could have been presented as smaller and crisper images occupying less than one page instead of one-and-a-half pages, and it would have reduced the book’s size without detracting from its considerable virtues. Furthermore, the expansion of an over-sized image to the adjacent page destroys its integrity without adding any value. The only advantage I can see in this would be for the visually impaired.In the book’s Introduction (page 18) there is an error in the wavelength scale illustration. The visible spectrum is displayed with the violet color towards the longer wavelengths (infrared) and the the red color towards the shorter ones. This, of course, should be the reverse.I have enjoyed the book greatly, and plan to make it part of my permanent library. The three-star rating would be much higher if it were not for some of the over-sized images which I found unnecessary and, at times, annoying.

I purchased this book because I work in a scanning electron microscopy lab and the images in this book are stellar! I use the book to show friends and family examples of really small stuff in great detail. It also serves as an inspirational tool for when I have down time and want to look at random stuff under the scope. The book is awesome, you most likely will not regret the purchase!

The colors and clarity are stunning. I was looking for images to springboard designs for quilts and found a treasure house. Since I wasn't interested in the text I can't evaluate that; the illustrations are exceptional.

Everybody needs this book. I gave a copy to my grandson, who has just started college, and he disappeared into it at once. The idea of this prize-winning book is to show the natural world in new ways, starting with the minutest little things that can only be seen through an electron microscope and going all the way to the incomprehensibly large universe that we live in. The pictures are amazing, and beautifully colorful. Each one is accompanied by a description of what is shown, how the picture was taken, and the information it provides, all written in clear and easy to understand language, nothing too technical. You can study this book from beginning to end, or you can just dip in and see what marvels you find each timeI can't recommend this book too highly.

This is an absolutely beautiful book showing images from the tiniest entities to the largest in the world. It should be on everyone's coffee tableor in everyone's library. The book gives a perspective made possible by the use of various means of taking pictures in such a way as to make the viewer see in a different way. The images are both informative and artistic. Ivan Amato accompanies the images with clear and succint explanations.

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