

## Cabinets of Curiosities

Patrick Mauriès

**Publication date: 19 September 2011**

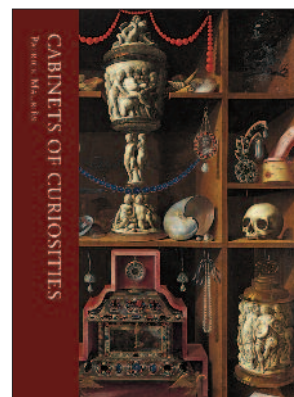
**Price: £29.95**

All knowledge, the cosmos arranged on shelves, in cupboards, or hanging from the ceiling, ‘infinite riches in a little room’ – such were the cabinets of curiosities of the 17th century. This survey traces the amazing history of cabinets of curiosities, from their first appearance in the inventories and engravings commissioned by Renaissance nobles such as the Medici or the Hapsburgs, via those of the Dane Ole Worm and the Italian polymath Athanasius Kircher, to the serious 17th- and 18th-century scientists Elias Ashmole and Levinas Vincent. Now available in a new lavish format, this spectacular and ingeniously erudite compendium traces the amazing history of cabinets of curiosities.

- ‘One of the most beautiful art books you will ever see’ – *The World of Interiors*
- ‘Captivating ... just to read about the chaos of the cabinets, let alone look at the many beautiful images selected by Mauriès, is dizzying. ... Mauriès offers the kind of historical unity of which the early collectors, with their wonderful curiosity and lust for affinity, would have been proud’ – *The Times Higher Education Supplement*
- ‘Weird and wonderful ... like a catalogue for the repository of the most freakish flights of scientific imagination’ – *The Times*
- ‘Mauriès’ book’s splendiferous illustrations, some of which fold out to disclose shocks within, alternate the delightful and the disturbing’ – *The Guardian*
- ‘Splendid’ – *The Times Literary Supplement*
- ‘Awesome ... a splendid memento mori’ – *The Irish Times*

### Author

Patrick Mauriès is a Paris-based contributing editor to the Italian art and design magazine FMR and former literary editor of Liberation. Among his previous books are *Jean Cocteau*, *Fornasetti* and *Line Vautrin*, all published by Thames & Hudson.



---

### Extent

256pp inc 3 gatefolds

### Size

30.5 x 22.5cm

### Illustrations

272 illustrations, 139 in colour

### Price

£29.95

**ISBN 978 0 500 515945**

---

### Press Office Contact

#### Holly Blaxill

Thames & Hudson Ltd  
181A High Holborn  
London WC1V 7QX

T +44 (0)20 7845 5020

F +44 (0)20 7845 5050

E [h.blaxill@thameshudson.co.uk](mailto:h.blaxill@thameshudson.co.uk)

W [www.thamesandhudson.com](http://www.thamesandhudson.com)