

# ENCHANTING NATURE

In all the seasons of the year, the Nature's quiet retreats display a unique symphony of colours sounding in a perfect symphony. All flowers, bushes and trees pride themselves with their original colour lay-out, characteristic for each specific species.

The colour views in the Nature's flower temples vary over the course of day as well as over the course of year. The imagination of the Nature, an outstanding decorator and scenographer, seems unlimited. Colours and shapes of flowers, shrubs and trees, assembled in brilliant configurations, emanate surprising internal power.

In spring, the Nature's temple thrives with a plentiful paint palette. In March, the secret Nature's corners are decorated with the first heralds of the Primavera – snowdrops, coltsfoots, saffron. The white tinted snowdrops, yellow coltsfoots and violet saffron are effective remedies for my eyes, suffering from colour vitamin deficiency after the long winter – generous and open-handed with white but tight-fisted with the other colours. Pines, firs, spruces wake up from their winter dream and put fresh, shiny yellow-green mantles on their dim dark winter gowns. In April, the Nature's quiet retreats are covered with carpets of yellow primroses, violet lungwort and white anemones bursting in marvellous blossom. Deciduous trees, leafless during their winter sleep, wake up and put on their new light green clothes. After the governing power has been passed to the month May, the secret Nature's corners thrive with flourishing flowers in the utmost blossom. The hundreds the flowers, shrubs and trees flowering in the most beautiful month of year do not interfere each other with their colours. The opposite is true – they create the perfect harmony of the magnificent colour symphony of the May Nature. Beautiful, just breath-taking bouquets of violet gentians, blue bells and snow-white pinks in full blossom decorate rock cornices. Tender white lilies of the valley, miraculous yellow goldcaps and deep-blue columbines are exposed in a showcase of the beech forest's flower hall properly equipped by the Florist Nature.

In the summer season, the Nature offers another rich gallery of colours. Flowers of various shapes and diverse colours decorate meadows, hillsides, sheer slopes and rock reefs. Niches in calcareous rocks pride themselves with wonderful flower buckets of greyish hairy edelweiss, blue bells and white sandwort pillows. Meadows are exuberant with white ox-eye-daisies, yellow goat's beards, light-blue bluebells and reddish sword-lilies. The forest fruits in

secret forest corners start ripening. The red colour of strawberries and raspberries is such tempting that no living Nature's creature can resist examining their savour.

Sun rays flickering through rugged cloud blankets illuminate magnificent chessboard-like patterns in the summer Nature's retreats: slopes covered with impressive, sheer rectangular carpets of goldish coloured grain copying the slope's contour lines, woodlands, hedgerows bordering cultivated patches of agricultural land, tree lines along water streams and rivers provide a genuine metaphoric picture of still seclusions in the Heavens.

However, the secret forest retreats present their top colour collection in the autumn when the Academic Artist Nature' offers a paint palette flourishing with a genuinely miraculous mix of colours and hues. The scenes created by the Scenographer Nature in forest retreats in this season are extraordinarily impressive and perfect in style. The Lady Producer Nature simply exhibits her exclusive repertory of magnificent interpretations of the autumnal symphony. The broadleaved trees start to put on their festive robes as if they dressed for a repute fashion show or a famous forest dancing fest. Truly, this season offers heaps of things to admire. The Fashion Designer Nature's inventions are authentically original, with nothing to compare to in this material world – fantasy does not acknowledge any limits. This Lady Dressmaker neglects any common prejudice. Each forest tree leaving the Nature's fashion workshop is wearing an original dress, designed and coloured unprecedently for presentation on the forest fashion stage. The Fashion Designer Nature provides her models with the brand new creations of the latest autumnal collection. For maple, there has been tailored an orange jacket, ash is wearing a deep-yellow overcoat, maple is showing an impressive rusty-dyed suit. Wayfaring tree displays an exciting autumnal purple robe, the newest model designed by the most famous Designer, the Nature. The finely pleated gown represents the best choice for the autumnal fest in the forest dancing hall. Also the ceremonial dress for a rowan reflects a special care: the radiating deep-yellow robe, perfectly harmonising with the ruby diadem of deep-red fruits adds splendour to this Tree Beauty preparing her performance on the forest fashion stage. These two charming ladies are chaperoned by two cavaliers – a larch in a goldish-yellow tail-coat and a spruce in an elegant dark-yellow dinner jacket.

More and more embroidery is decorating the Persian carpet woven by the Nature from the last year's leaf litter on the forest dancing floor. The spider threads stretched among the tree crowns trap the leaves of all possible colour hues and grades, wafted by the fine autumnal breeze from various forest trees: elms, beeches and maples, and set them up into fascinating

garlands hanging over the forest stage. The trees, enrobed in clothes the man has never seen, never heard, never dreamed about, enjoy they autumnal dancing fest in the forest hall illuminated by the Chief Lighting Engineer – Sun Golden Eye. This certificated assistant of the Lady Nature, Scenographer and Director in one, masters a wide spectre of illumination tricks and effects. The literally lightning-like alternating shots of transparent mist veils and impressive sunlight flushes create an authentic fairy-carnival mood for the forest stage.

The autumnal Sun Golden Eye is not very generous with warm caresses. Casting curious looks from among curly snow-white clouds, it has just flogged one of its laser beams onto the cinnamon-tinted foliage of a robust solitary Beech-Giant, the exclusive, omnipotent King of the whole hillside, expanding, since ages, its monumental globe of branches freely, without obstacles – except the ground. Immediately, the attacked tree blasts into a bombastic, unprecedented firework, sparkling in all possible colour variations. Similar eye smoothing colour-light spectacle provides a Matusalem-aged, golden-yellow maple tree, perching pompously towards the azure blue sky on the top of a steep hill summit. The Sun Golden Eye casts charming Christmas sparkles on hawthorns, wayfaring and wild roses. The breathtaking magic light-colour show prepared and directed by the Chief Sorcerer – Lady Nature on the huge stage called the autumnal broadleaved forest, culminates. The scene of October Central-European nature offers a grandiose defile of picturesque Carpathian broadleaved forests.

After long lasting rains, tiny fungal creatures start puncturing the forest litter with their little heads, and the forest atmosphere becomes saturated with typical mushroom odour. Each fungus has its characteristic shape, colour and odour with which the trained specialists can identify the species for each specific fruiting body. Red toadstools, green russulae, orange milkcaps, violet wood blewits and brown boleti cover the forest leaf litter with bewitching beauty elevating the human soul to the transcendental heights of the Heaven's space-time.

Neither in winter, the Nature's colour repertory is deprived. His Dignity Art Master Frost enjoys the protection of long, dark and cold winter nights for turning the natural objects into supernatural beauty. Dry grass clutches, maintaining after autumn wind attacks, leafless shrubs and trees metallised with soft silver rime coat are arranged in fantastical, fairy-like sceneries. The fir by the trench is wearing a marvellous, fine gathered wedding gown. Spider webs, resisting the riots of the Winter Wind Lady interwoven amongst the twigs of the Fir Bride, decorated with ice crystals, transformed into jewels of unprecedented exceptional splendour, are another masterpiece of this great Sorcerer. The ordinary tuft of sedge by the

marsh has been metamorphosed into an amazing wedding bucket. Admiring the outfit designed for the Fir Bride by the Fashion Master Frost, I can feel a solemn wedding march jingling inside me.

Another fascinating show on the Nature's winter stage is performed by snow flakes falling down from scattered clouds – permitting the inquisitive golden eye of the vanishing Sun to enjoy this magnificent spectacle. The snowflakes, artistic artefacts created by the Master Frost, manifest the most amazing geometrical shapes. The beauty and perfection of the mosaic symmetry, possible to create by this Ice Artist exclusively, soothe the human soul and lift it up beyond the clouds, to the birthplace of these hexagonal miracles. The Master, modelling his snowflakes gives his fantasy a free rein – neither one single pair of the myriads of these tiny artefacts can be found perfectly identical. Snowflakes, silently falling down from fluffy clouds, swirl in an outstanding spectacle of infinite possible six-pointed stars and tree-like structures.

Immediately, one feels like thrown into another, just supernatural world. The yellow rays of the Sun Golden Eye give the glittering snowflakes an outfit of golden jewels dispersed to the Earth from the Heaven. Inside the flakes' crystal bellies, the rays refract, turning the flakes into sparkling six-point stars.

In the world we live, fairly tales are possible to experience exclusively in the Grandmother Nature's quiet refugees – always proposing the play stage for innumerable fantastic stories. It relies on us solely whether we follow our vocation and participate actively in similar tales or go past without noticing them with our eyes inundated with profane luxury and success in this fast developing but more and more dehumanised world of science and technology.