



Maria Sibylla Merian

Her Life for Art and Research

In her subsequent life she changed her place of residence several times and finally found her new home in the cosmopolitan city of Amsterdam. There she fulfilled her life's dream and undertook a dangerous research expedition to Surinam together with her younger daughter. In this Dutch colony in the South American tropics the fifty-year-old fell dangerously ill. Nevertheless, she brought a rich treasure of sketches as well as taxidermically prepared animals and plants back to Amsterdam with her as the basis for her next book project.



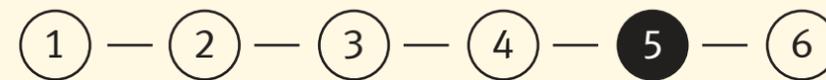
Her Magnum Opus with the "Surinamese insects"

In this large-format work the tropical world with its creatures comes to life. The type of image she had invented in Nuremberg, namely one showing creatures in their life cycle and with their host plants together in a single picture, continued to be her trademark. Once again, she made non-simultaneous phenomena visible at the same time in their natural environment. The surviving copies are rare treasures in public libraries, especially when hand-coloured by Merian or her daughters.

Etching 12 in Merian's magnum opus on Surinamese insects: Banana with a then unnamed butterfly, which is now known as *Bullseye Moth* and in international research as *Automeris liberia*.



Merian Riverside Walk



Please follow the butterflies in the pavement as guides to your route.

