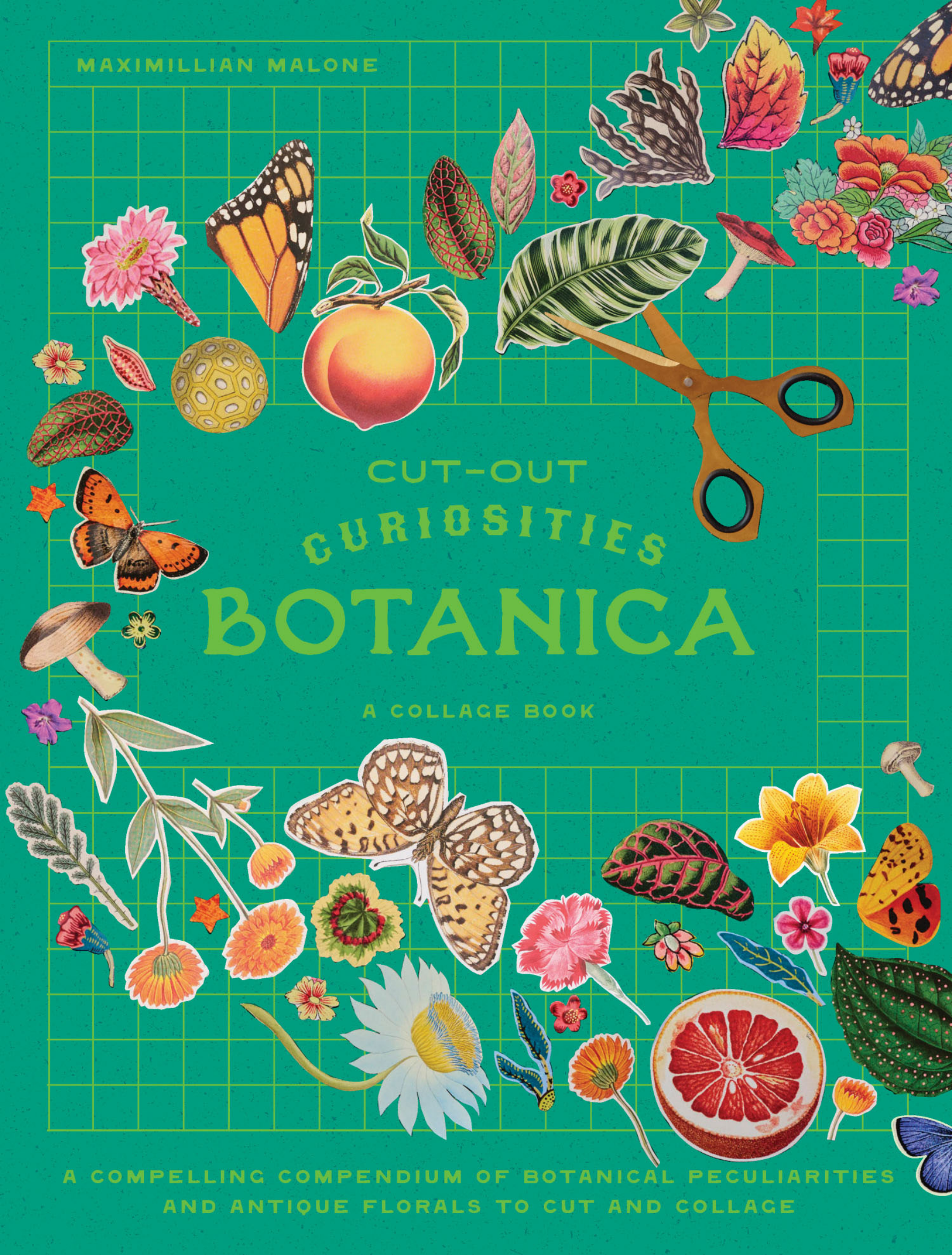


MAXIMILLIAN MALONE

CUT-OUT  
CURIOSITIES  
BOTANICA

A COLLAGE BOOK

A COMPELLING COMPENDIUM OF BOTANICAL PECULIARITIES  
AND ANTIQUE FLORALS TO CUT AND COLLAGE





## ARRANGEMENT STYLES



**LESS IS MORE** Minimalism looks effortless, but it can be tricky to achieve! Play with contrast: for instance, pair black and white imagery with colour. Or blend similar objects together, until it's hard to tell where one ends and another begins. This style can take time and patience. If you spread out your collection of cut-outs, you may spot potential combinations. I love it when just a few pieces of paper come together and create a whole new story.

**STACKING** This can be a simple, satisfying way to play! Pretend you're balancing weighted objects, one on top of another. To lean into some realism, consider the shadows on your pieces, and how this shading may influence the placement of the next piece. Stacking can be a warm-up game! How high can you make your stack? Try a pyramid, an archway, even a domino-like arrangement.







← **GO WITH THE FLOW** Compare this style to a river, in which cut-outs flow one into the next. In a serpentine-like pattern, allow your creation to twist and turn. Go with the flow and see where it takes you! Try to make a collage that appears to be blowing in the wind, or one that looks as light as a feather. You could complement this approach with delicate images, such as petals and leaves.

**LAYERING** To try this style, place your biggest piece first and then place a slightly smaller cut-out on top, and repeat. In my example, I've simplified this process by placing each piece centrally. I've also used a craft knife to tuck the butterfly wing behind a leaf.





**BOUQUET** To create floral arrangements, experiment by clustering your cut-outs relatively compactly, with pieces growing this way and that way. Not everything needs to be a flower: try adding more unusual additions. Leave a border on some pieces to help them stand out more clearly from afar. Your collage doesn't have to be realistic: bits may appear to float away. An added character, animal or bird can change the scale of the vase, making it appear gigantic. While the examples included here have a decent amount of negative space, try adding a drop shadow or place your bouquet onto a background. And a final tip: a few sprinkles of colour can make the scene a little more magical!







**POCKETS AND WINDOWS** With a craft knife at the ready, you can take your collages to the next level! Cut pockets into the page, which will allow you to tuck one piece behind another to create a sense of depth and distance. For the example on the left, I've added two small pockets, which allowed me to tuck the framed painting edges into the bush scene; this makes the painting feel submerged in the background. This example also stealthily integrates a mushroom that I added. Once you understand pocket opportunities, you'll notice them everywhere! You can also try cutting windows/openings into an image (see the next pages). This allows you to layer images underneath others.





**OTHERWORLDLY CREATURE** Turn a leaf into a tongue, a wing into an eye or a bunch of fungi into a marvellous mullet! Get wild turning cut-outs into something from a make-believe new world, like a green giant from this book's leaves and green veggies!

**MORE IS MORE** Try leaning into creating something explosive, with loads of pieces! This may end up looking like a hot mess, but if you have a few guides in place, you can test the limits. Try adding a focal point, which is clear from a distance. If you add too many hero pieces, your collage may feel crowded. You can also try a limited colour palette, to create harmony. The examples include painting experiments I chopped into abstract pieces.

















