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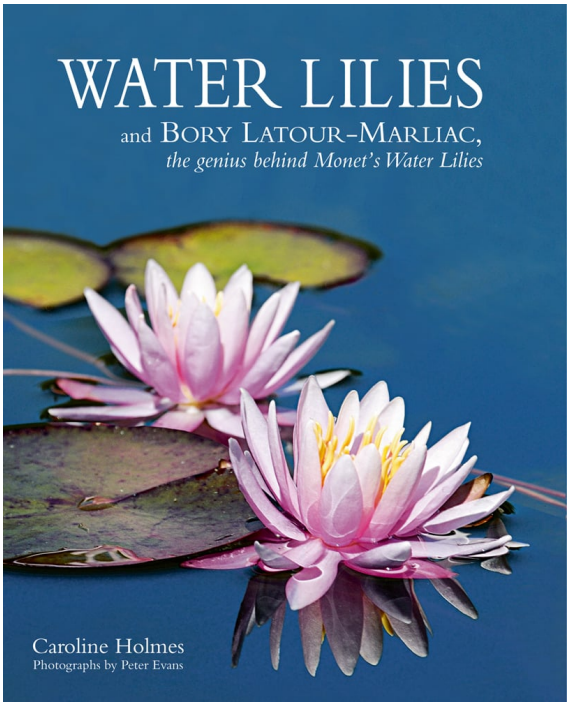

Water Lilies

and Bory Latour-Marliac, the Genius Behind Monet's Water Lilies

Caroline Holmes

ISBN	9781870673839
Publisher	ACC Art Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World
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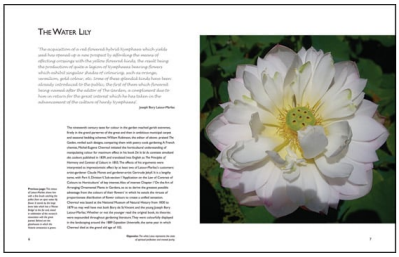
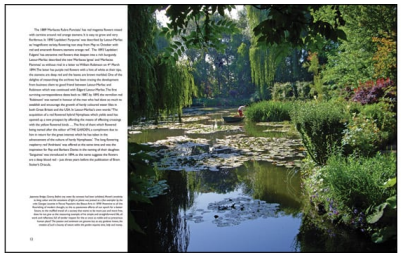
- Beautifully written, this is a complete history of the water lily, its influence on creative and visionary forces, and a complete and comprehensive record of a journey that began in the nineteenth century with one man, Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac, but passed to millions

Water lilies are inextricably linked to the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome, Egypt and the Far East, where they were highly valued, just as precious metals or gemstones, their properties were thought to be medicinal, spiritual and purely aesthetic; they have been represented in architecture, printed textiles, religious paintings and illustrations, cited in mythology, folklore, mysticism and the creative imagination. This volume meticulously records our enduring love affair with the most beautiful and exotic of plants, the water lily. It is a comprehensive and detailed account of their introduction into European culture, largely through the passion and devotion of one man, Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac (1830-1911), whose lifelong work in the field of propagation, cultivation and commercialisation of water lilies inspired a generation of horticulturists, artists and poets to create the words and images that are deeply embedded in our culture today. Claude Monet, for example, used lilies from Latour-Marliac's nursery to create his garden in Giverny. The work Latour-Marliac did gave rise to development of specialist lily nurseries and growers across Europe and North America; in fact, Latour-Marliac's nursery still exists today, owned by Robert Sheldon, an American who shared Latour-Marliac's passion for water lilies and water gardening and has been the force behind the nursery's continued success today.

Caroline Holmes is a garden historian, consultant, designer, lecturer, writer and broadcaster. She is the author of *Monet at Giverny*, ISBN 9781870673747, *Follies of Europe*, ISBN 9781870673563 and *Impressionists and Their Gardens*, ISBN 9781851496532, all published by Garden Art Press and Antique Collectors' Club.







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