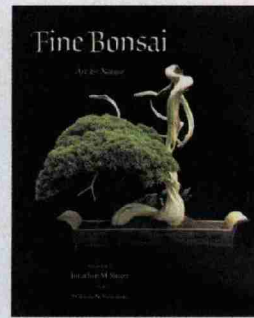


and slightly disorienting scales have found a new context in which to be appreciated. *Fine Bonsai: Art & Nature* (Abbeville, deluxe slip-cased edition, \$250) contains 300 full-page photos of bonsai from private collections (yes, bonsais are collected), including photos from “the mecca of bonsai, the Omiya Bonsai Village of Saitama, Japan.”



“To Nicole” is the only text that graces the photography book *Flower* by Andrew Zuckerman (\$75). Zuckerman’s sumptuous style, evident in two other of his Chronicle efforts, *Creature* and *Bird*, is to place up-close, colorful subjects within a pure white field, revealing all the wonders of color and structure and identity.

And America’s original artist of sumptuous color, detail, and identity in the natural world, John James Audubon, is honored in Rizzoli’s *Audubon’s Aviary: The Original Watercolors for The Birds of America* (\$85), with text by Robert J.M. Olson, curator of drawing at the New-York Historical Society. Olson tells the story of the creation of the Audubon watercolors and delves into the master naturalist’s sources. Like the greatest of art from nature, we are taught how to see. ■

NATURE

Nature crosses with an art form in the cultivation of bonsai trees, which goes back at least two thousand years. Though bonsai creations grace Japanese gardens and many homes, under the eye of renowned photographer Jonathan M. Singer the curious shapes

