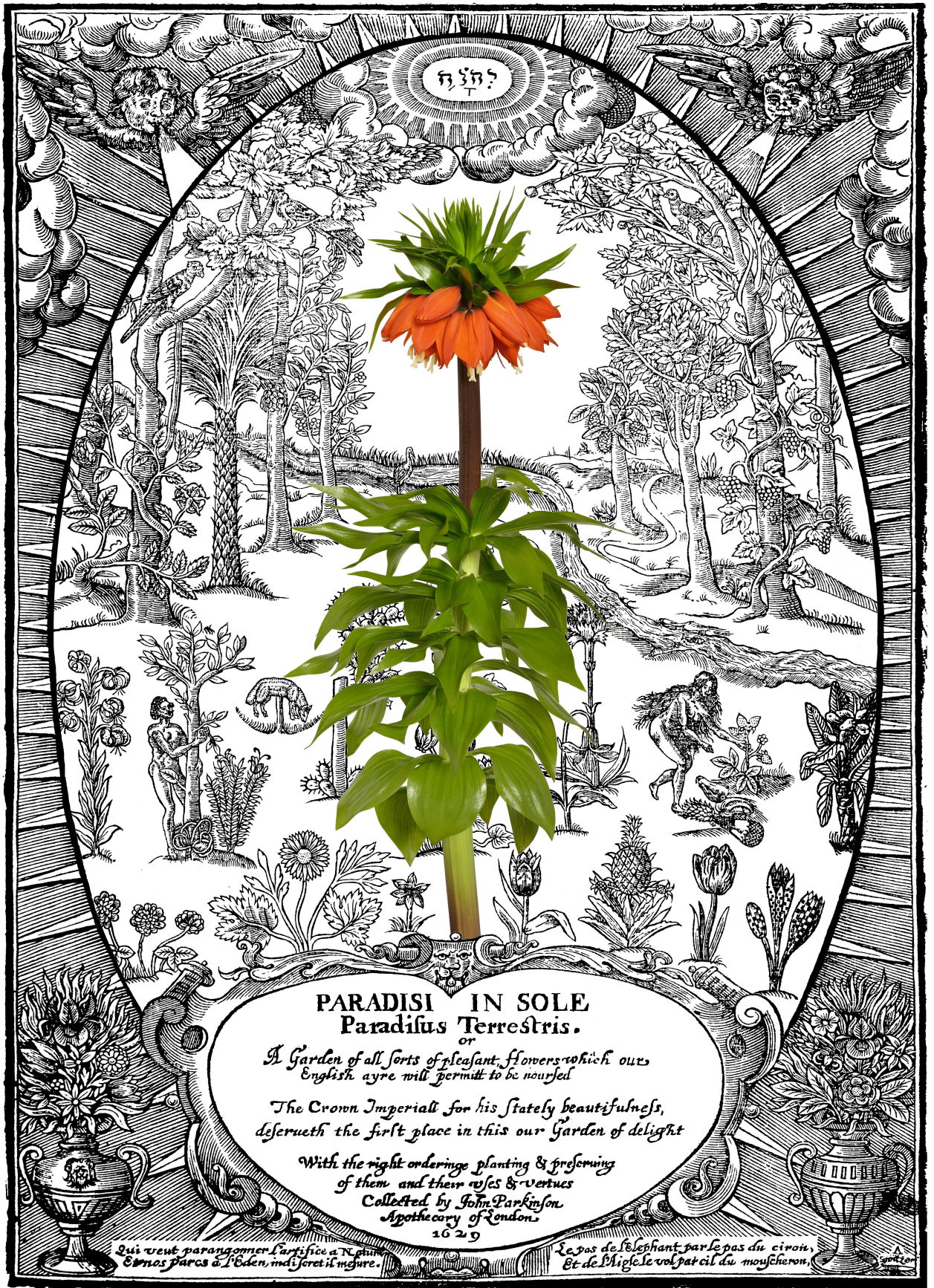


Earthly Paradise



PARADISI IN SOLE
Paradisus Terrestris.
or

*A Garden of all sorts of pleasant flowers which our
English ayre will permitt to be nourfed*

*The Crown Imperiall for his stately beautiffulness,
deserueth the first place in this our Garden of delight*

*With the right ordering planting & preseruing
of them and their uses & vertues*

*Collected by John Parkinson
Apothecary of London.*

1629

*Qui veut parangonner l'artifice a Nature
Et nos parcs a l'Eden, me fera il meure.*

*Le pas de l'elephant par le pas du cirou,
Et de l'hippe le vol par cil du mouscheron.*

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Biblical references, mythical plant-animals, the allure of the exotic and a disregard for ecology, John Parkinson's *Paradisi in Sole* (1629) has it all.

As the first book written in English dedicated to a flower garden, Parkinson's book reflected the change in European society. New exotic introductions from the Orient were replacing medicinal plant gardens. Many of these new plants can be seen in the frontispiece by Swiss woodcut artist Christopher Switze. Absent from the scene is the Crown imperial, *Fritillaria imperialis*. Parkinson introduces it on page 27 as the first plant in his garden.



Parkinson's religious sentiments follow those of the day depicting Paradise as a place when all plants grow together irrespective of their ecological needs. Modern horticultural practice aims for a similar end by creating micro-habitats within a garden to accommodate a wider range of plants.

