



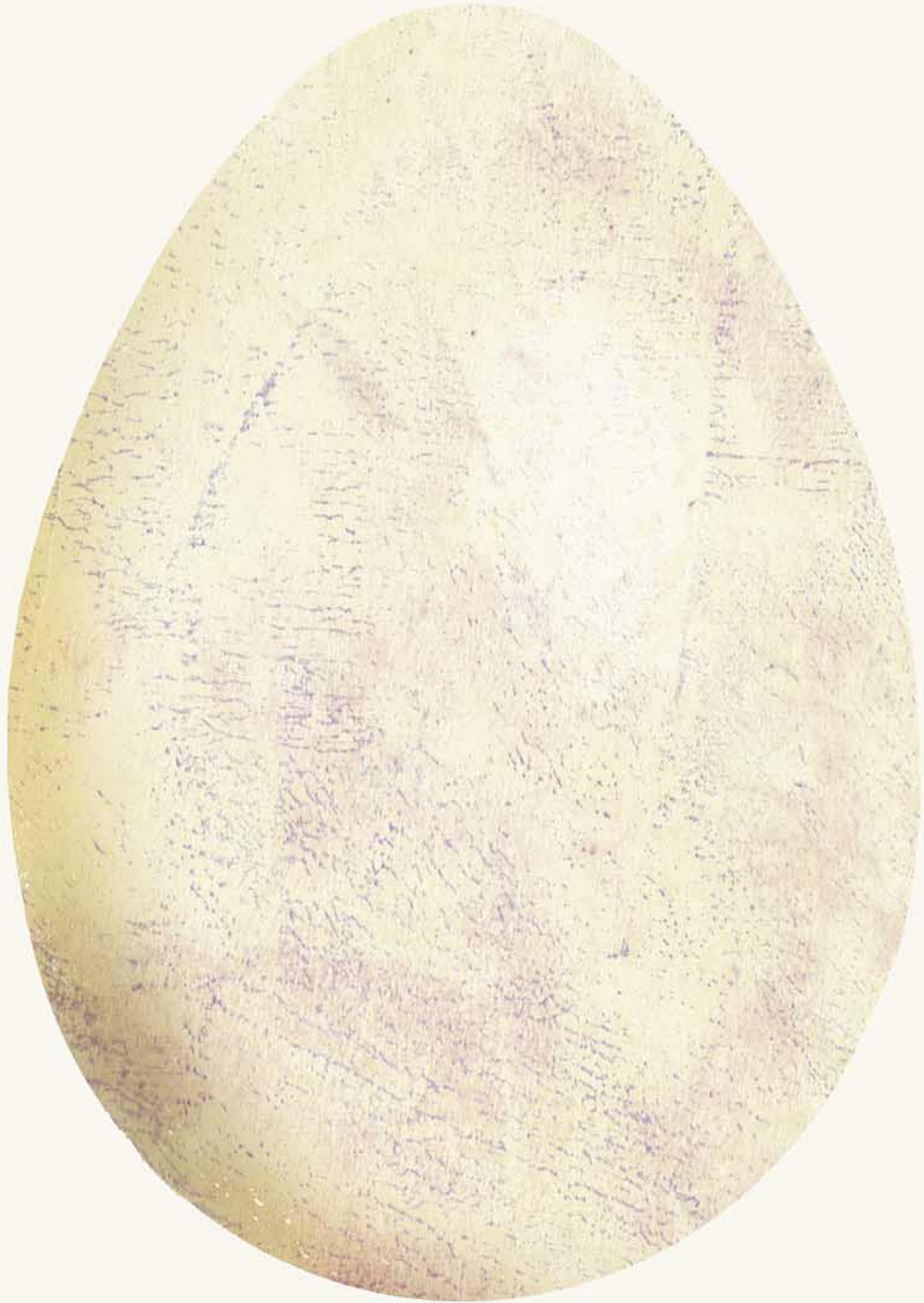




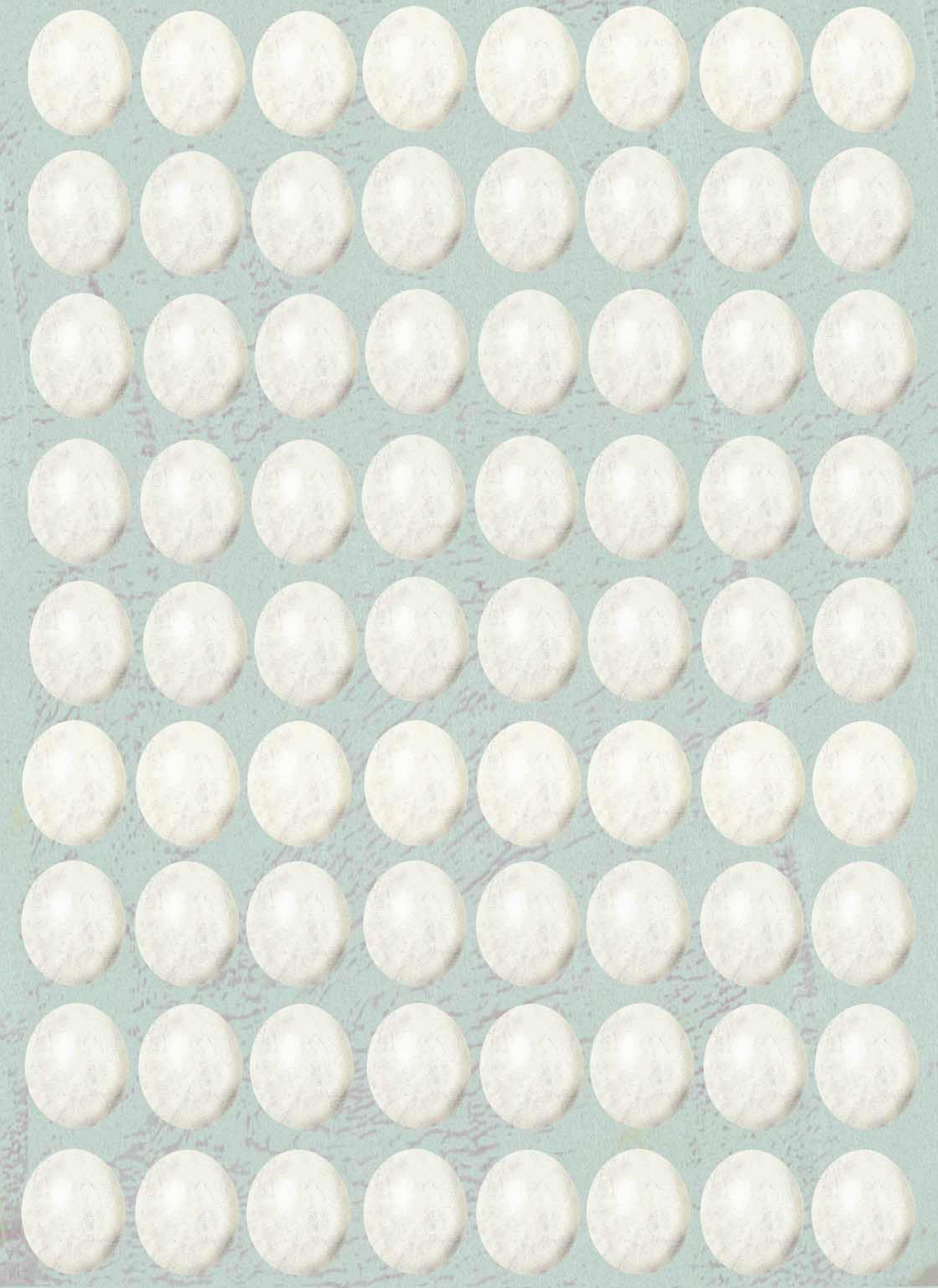


Britta Teckentrup

# THE EGG



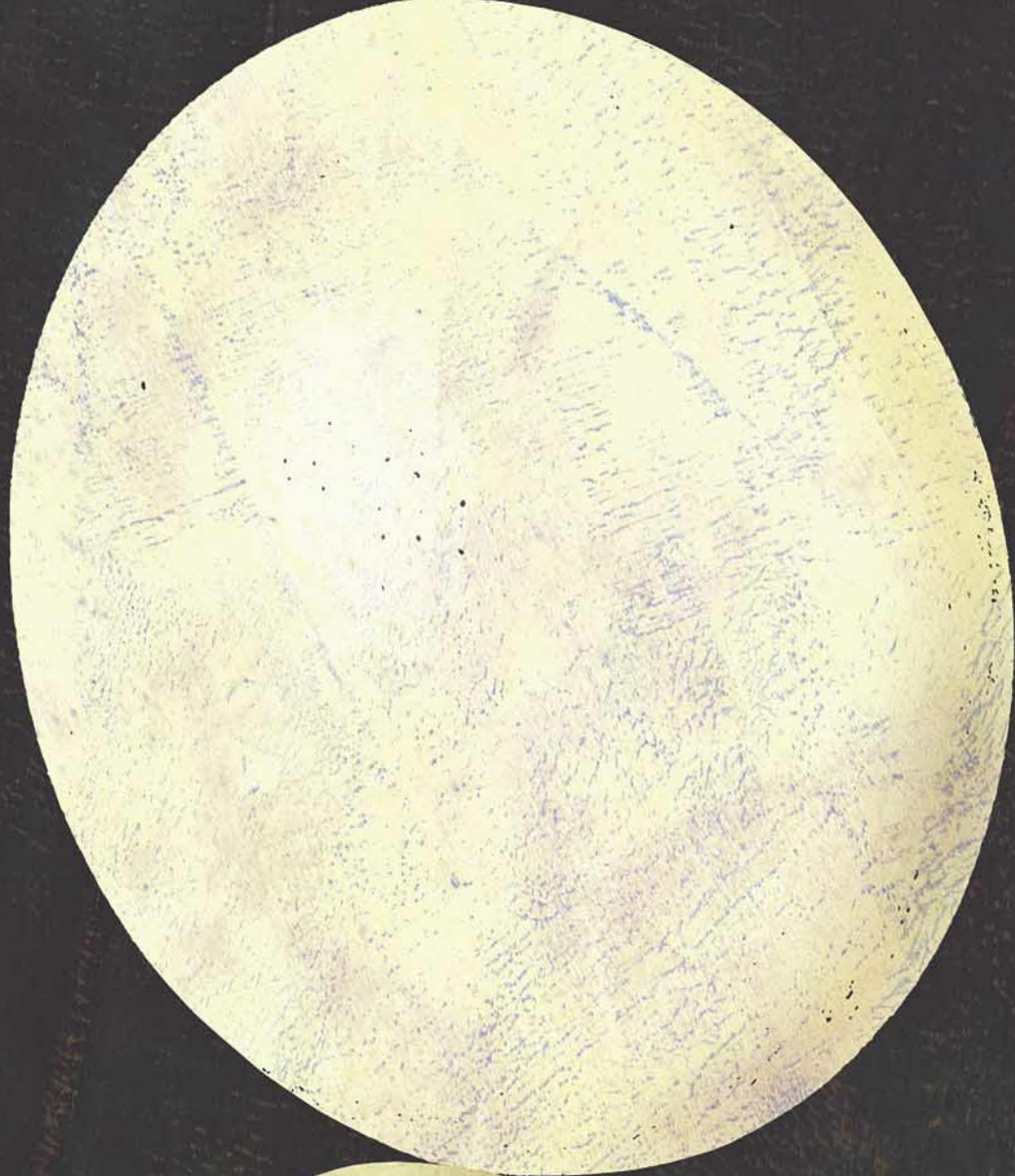
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# The Egg

## *A Miracle of Nature*

The egg has always played a major part in our culture. Since the beginning of time the egg has been an object of fascination to humankind. It has been worshipped in religion and mythology as the source of all life around the world. Because of its perfect shape, sensual feel and beautiful colours, it is treasured as one of the most perfect objects in the universe.





# Curvaceous Perfection

An egg is fragile and strong at the same time—ordinary and extraordinary.

To the human brain the perfect continuity of curvature is the most pleasing shape there is. Even though an egg might look fragile, it has a very strong structure.

If you squeeze an egg lengthwise it is quite hard to crack. The reason for this toughness is the curvaceous shape of the egg.

You can compare it to the strong structure of an arch in architecture.

Eggs have to support the weight of the adult bird, and a chicken egg can support an object as heavy as a large book.

# Egg Collections

Bird eggs have always been highly desirable objects and were widely collected, especially around the time of English naturalist Charles Darwin, who studied birds in the 1800s.

Eggs were collected for scientific purposes, often to learn more about the diversity of nature.

Eggs were even sold and displayed as beautiful, valuable curiosities.

In 1954, after people learned that egg collecting was threatening bird populations, the United Kingdom outlawed its practice.

Today some specimens are still collected for scientific research, and you can see many fascinating egg collections in museums worldwide.

