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*Stylized arrangements by Marisa  
Competello of Meta Flora complement  
architectural vases and the far-out  
furniture of visionary art and design  
dealer Paul Johnson.*

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**MAXIMIZE THE PALETTE**

*Paint humble grasses in a bright hue to accentuate the line. Here, a splash of blue paired with flamboyant heliconia elevates the colors to Surrealist fantasy. Finish with a graphic black and white vase.*



**Oblique Variation, 2016, by Cody Hoyt \$2,400 [patrickparrish.com](http://patrickparrish.com);**  
**Alufoil Side Table, Chris Schanck**  
courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery.

**WORK THOSE ANGLES**

*This dynamic banana flower and bromeliad arrangement has awesome impact when juxtaposed with the soft curve of a circular ceramic vase.*



This page: Donut Vase by  
Natalie Weinberger Ceramics  
\$350 [shop.natalie-w.com](http://shop.natalie-w.com);  
Danby Marble, Max Lamb courtesy  
of Johnson Trading Gallery.  
Opposite: Sculpture by Eva Pappas  
\$4,500 [tkdofinearts.com](http://tkdofinearts.com);  
Thin Slice Marble Cabinet, Peter  
Marigold courtesy of Johnson  
Trading Gallery.



#### MIX MATERIALS

*Wispy meets earthy with this combo of dripping dates and white Japanese umbrella fern. Shown off in a modern Greek urn, the arrangement feels fresh for summer.*



One look at Marisa Competello's bold arrangements and it comes as no surprise that the New York-based floral designer was a fashion stylist for almost a decade before turning her talents to flowers. Strong bolts of color, clean lines, and a minimal amount of plant types in the mix form a tight edit. "I was always gathering materials and putting things together—now I apply that same skill to a different medium," says Competello.

Through her friend Sabrina De Sousa, co-owner of Dimes restaurant, she started making weekly arrangements for the sparse-meets-eclectic Chinatown hangout, developing her eye and quickly broadening a fan-slash-client base to include Rachel Comey, Kelly Wearstler, and Apparatus. "I'm still learning and evolving—I'm freestyling," says Competello, who, other than taking an ikebana class, is self-taught, intuitively rif-

ing on new shapes and movement (she's also a longtime dancer). In her hands, arrangements become living sculptures. These are not flowers that just sit and look pretty. They stand out. They have things to say. So pairing her creations with statement-making vessels and furniture from vintage design dealer Paul Johnson was a dream moment. "I mean, my flowers got to sit on a Max Lamb table," says Competello. The feeling must be mutual.



**BUILD A SERIES**

*Stack a few flowers by trimming the stems at varying heights so each one peeks out over the next. (Sturdy plants do best, like these anthuriums.) Display in a modular vase—and let one bloom go rogue for artful balance.*

**REPETITION MAKES PERFECT**

*Layering similarly shaped leaves and flowers in different sizes creates interesting depth and texture when placed in a streamlined vessel.*



From top: Black Dew Round Ziggurat Vessel \$210 [malka-dina.com](http://malka-dina.com); Dripped Bronze Stool, Jack Craig courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery; Block Double Vase in Aged Brass \$6,800 [apparatusstudio.com](http://apparatusstudio.com); Copper Skin Side Table and Chair, Kwangho Lee courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery.

**FLIP THE PERSPECTIVE**

*Look to stems for creating new forms, like calla lilies that naturally loop and twist. Dip the ends into chic variations of a clear glass bud vase to mimic the fluted shape of the flowers.*



Juliet Vessels 1-6  
\$110 [annakarlin.com](http://annakarlin.com);  
PVC/Marble Console Table,  
Jack Craig courtesy  
of Johnson Trading Gallery.