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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;
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; Danby Marble, Max Lamb courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery. Opposite: Sculpture by Eva Pappas \$4,500 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; Dripped Bronze Stool, Jack Craig courtesy of Johnson Trading Gallery; Block Double Vase in Aged Brass \$6,800 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;
PVC/Marble Console Table,
Jack Craig courtesy
of Johnson Trading Gallery.