

FLORAL TABLEAU

CAPTURE BEAUTY IN STILL LIFE



TURN GATHERINGS FROM YOUR GARDEN AND TREASURED BITS OF YOUR LIFE INTO A LIVING WORK OF ART!

BY RING JANUARY 2021



1 WOODBRIDGE

Create a riotous ruffle of soft summer pinks with dahlias, zinnias, roses and strawflowers, then go posh with rich burgundy scabiosa and sweet peas guiding the irregular arrangement along its gentle slope. The patina of an antique French urn, sitting on a rumpled muslin cloth, matches the soft tones of the flowers, echoed in the gatherings of summer fruits and a small stack of your favourite books!

«
FILL YOUR
ARRANGEMENT
WITH FLOWERS
AT ALL STAGES
- BUDS, FULL
BLOOMS AND
SEED PODS.

»



A lush and beautiful flower arrangement makes a stunning centrepiece but take it a few steps further and it becomes a tableau that tells a story, not only of your flowers but also of you and the things that are important to you. Extend your floral display beyond an urn or tureen to include items that are special to you and expand on or complement the texture and colours of your arrangement. Then, you give your gorgeous creation a name. It's not just flowers – it's theatre!



FOR MORE INSPO
You can feed your eyes on more amazing arrangements and learn the stories behind them in **Garden Gathered: Floral Design & Rural Life at Riverdale Farm** by Helen Loggion (The Flower Press, \$80.95), a very talented garden and floral designer from Western Australia. theflowerpress.com.au

DESIGN TIPS

- Establish the shape and size of your arrangement with branches and foliage. Aim to make your arrangement about one-and-a-half times the size of your vessel.
- Use the middle of the arrangement for focal flowers, placing them at different levels.
- There's no need to have all flowers facing the same direction – the sides of flowers are also interesting!
- Add smaller accent flowers and finish with delicate airy ones that dance above the main body and add a touch of whimsy – think grasses, rushes and sedges.



2. JAMES

A bottle of Pinot Noir, a wine characterised by notes of cherry, plum, berry, vanilla, cloves, pepper, inulle, forest floor, rose petals and dried herbs, sets the colour tone in a very earthy, cast-iron urn. Choose a foundation flower, in this case Dahlias 'Cafe au Lait' and let it be courted by roses, phlox, cosmos, zinnia, scabiosa, poppy and lovely starlets of heuchera. Throw in shots of boysenberry bramble, then drops of cherries around antique winery items. Here's cheers!

GO FOR FLOWERING HERBS, VEGETABLE BLOOMS AND LOTS OF TEXTURAL ELEMENTS.

FLORAL TABLEAU



RATHER THAN
USE FLORAL
FOAM—IT'S NOT
ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY—SCRUNCH
UP CHICKEN WIRE
AND PUT ON THE
BOTTOM OF YOUR
VESSEL. SECURED
WITH FLORAL TAPE.

CARE FOR CUT FLOWERS

- Pick flowers in the cool of the day, either early morning or evening, and put them immediately in a clean bucket with water.
- Always clean buckets with an antibacterial solution.
- Don't put flowers near ripening fruits, like bananas, as they emit ethylene that reduces the vase life of several flowers.
- Remove leaves that will be under the waterline.
- For maximum vase life, change water daily and trim stems every second day.
- Cut stems at an angle with clean, sharp secateurs to create a larger surface for the stems to take up water.
- Keep flowers in a cool place out of direct sunlight.

3 VALERIE

Cozenie artist Valerie Cozenie is the inspiration for this delicate, lacy arrangement in a cast-iron clam-shell urn. One of her lace-inspired, handmade tea-cups is part of the soft muslin tableau, as well as antique lace and silky tulle on spools. They enhance the mood created by roses, Queen Anne's lace, mock orange, California poppy and scabiosa, with arches of foxgloves and heuchera and an elegant tumble of sweet pea slipping into the cup.





LET EVERY ARRANGEMENT REFLECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT SITS.

4 ABBEY

Try your hand at a beautiful bouquet such as this one (left). It's inspired by lichen-encrusted granite boulders and peys homage to the classic Australian novel, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* by Joan Lindsay. While the colour theme is white, it's the textures of the leaves and flowers that add vibrancy and create the differences - the soft velvety petals of flannel flowers, the wiry stems, leaves and bulbous flowers of cushion bush, the lacy and uncommonly white Rattnest Island daisies, and little white bubbles of rice flowers - all tied up with a long, white silk ribbon.

5 PENNY

When you're fit to burst, do it from a pewter bowl with growlless - 'Misty Pink' and 'Calandra Gem' - and explosions of Rattnest Island daisy, Fannel flowers, spiked schizanthus and seed-laden native rushes. It demonstrates that while most of our native flowers are bold and richly colourful, some are as soft and dreamy as an English garden. Make it glow with candles and don't forget the bird's nest!



ADD ATTRACTIVE FOLIAGE IN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND TEXTURES. ■