

LIVING  
WITH  
FLOWERS



PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
NGOC MINH NGO

"The world is full of beauty, and there are few things more beautiful than flowers," begins photographer Ngoc Minh Ngo in her new book, *IN BLOOM: CREATING AND LIVING WITH FLOWERS*, which steps inside the studios and homes of 12 artists and designers who look to botanicals as their muse. "I have been interested in the endless interpretations of nature that people come up with," she says. "Each person is able to extract something different and create something new. To me, that is endlessly fascinating."

© IN BLOOM: CREATING AND LIVING WITH FLOWERS, BY NGOC MINH NGO, RIZZOLI NEW YORK, 2015



THE METALIST

**CARMEN ALMON**  
Bordeaux, France  
Working with brass, copper, and paint, sculptor Carmen Almon fashions exquisite metal sculptures of botanicals. She hand-cuts each element—petal, bud, stamen, and leaf—out of copper sheeting, then carefully molds it before soldering to form a specimen. With washes of enamel and oil paints, she colors in each detail. The end result feels as if it's been freshly plucked out of the landscape.

"Carmen has a real appreciation for plants, observing them in great detail. Although she's not scientific in her representations, the plants are immediately recognizable: They feel alive," Ngo says.





## THE DREAMSCAPER

**CLAIRE BASLER**  
Échassières,  
France

At her home in the French countryside, artist Claire Basler brings the outdoors in with lavish paintings of the outdoor world. In addition to canvases, she paints murals in the rooms of her home, a 13th-century château that had been long neglected. The landscape—80 acres of woodlands and meadows—is “transformed by her imagination to reappear on the walls in different moods, sometimes dramatic, almost operatic, other times quiet and serene, but always spectacular,” says Ngo.

“The walls of Claire’s house are all blank canvases for her. The incredible thing is that she doesn’t do any sketches beforehand. She just starts painting and sees where it takes her,” Ngo says.



## THE WALLFLOWER

**NEISHA CROSLAND**  
London

Designer Neisha Crosland surrounds herself both literally and figuratively with flowers. Her home and studio overlook her garden, which teems with clematis, jasmine, roses, and an ever-evolving selection of annuals. From color palettes to the intricate patterns on petals, the natural world provides Crosland with myriad ideas for designing wallpapers, textiles, and rugs.



“Neisha, who is myopic, spent a lot of time as a child looking at flowers and plants up close. And because of this, she discerned graphic patterns in nature that are now reflected in her beautiful work,” Ngo says.



## THE RELIEF WORKER

**RACHEL DEIN**  
London

Following in the tradition of botanical imprints, Rachel Dein casts flowers and plants in plaster to make tiles that range from single specimens to garden compositions. Each piece records a plant's "texture, pattern, and delicacy in exquisite detail," writes Ngo. Dein captures the essence of every fleeting bloom, encapsulating "the memory of nature itself."



"I find Rachel's work to be poetic. To me, her pieces are like ghostly vestiges of their former selves," Ngo says.

