

Eileen W. Johnson

Eileen W. Johnson is the director of FlowerSchool New York, the leading school for learning how to arrange flowers in the Americas. Established in 2003, it has a variety of master florists instructing students in the various techniques, both traditional and cutting edge. Students come from all over the world to study the art of floral arranging in this Manhattan atelier. Johnson is also the author of *The Art of Floral Arranging* and *Entertaining in the French Style*.

Felipe Sastre

Felipe Sastre is a designer who has been teaching at FlowerSchool New York since its inception and has been a florist for more than twenty years, having done flowers for President Bill Clinton and for large venues such as the Borgata Casino in Atlantic City and the Plaza Hotel.

Adrian Mueller

Adrian Mueller grew up in Lucerne, Switzerland, and currently resides in New York with his wife and son. Adrian's aim with his concise still life and location photography is to create images that connect with a viewer's personal memories, to ensure an emotional and lasting impression.

Jacket Design by Michelle Farinella Design



Gardening/Entertaining

ISBN 978-1-4236-2420-2

52499



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JOHNSON

Tropical Flowers



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\$24.99 U.S.

Tropical Flowers

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Stunning, exotic and colorful tropical flowers are the shining stars in this stimulating look at tropical flower arrangements. Eileen Johnson and Felipe Sastre of FlowerSchool New York demonstrate how tropical flowers fit into modern settings. Whether used in a Manhattan penthouse, a bouquet for a bride or as fireplace décor, tropical flowers can be unexpected, fresh and stylish. With step-by-step instructions on how to create some of the floral arrangements included, readers will come away with an enthusiasm to make their own works of art with these exquisite flowers.

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FLORAL DESIGNS BY FELIPE SASTRE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADRIAN MUELLER



Yellow anthuriums, red ginger and dracena marginata cuttings make an airy arrangement and are particularly interesting placed in a vase next to ancient Greek sculptures.





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A Tropical Lunch in the Sky



For this luncheon party, Felipe has used green as the main color. As colorful as the tropics often are, the color green always predominates. How it must have surprised the explorers from Europe who first saw the vibrant greens of the tropics, where trees and bushes stayed green year-round and flowers masqueraded as insects, fruits and animals!

The mixture of art and furniture in the apartment is quite representative of the modern world of the tropics today. There is a deep appreciation of the products of the land, a desire to return to nature while acknowledging the European roots that have been established over the past centuries. While there is much pain in this history, there is much to celebrate—the family that lives in this apartment has created an environment that has managed to combine these diverse elements with grace.

The table is laden with some of the treasures of the tropics including bamboo stalks, sea grapes, green anthuriums and coconuts. The explorers named anthuriums after the Greek word for fruit, “anthos,” and the Greek word for tail, “ouros.” Elephant ears, more correctly called philodendron leaves, lie underneath the arrangement. They can be used as placemats, but in this setting Felipe has chosen Pacific fan palms for use under the plates. The dishes are from the Palio, a horse race through the streets of the ancient city of Siena, Italy, that dates back to the sixteenth century. The water goblets are Venetian.



A nineteenth-century table from France displays a Herend tea service surrounded by fish tail palms. In the tall vase, yellow and red dendrobium orchids add a splendid dash of color.