



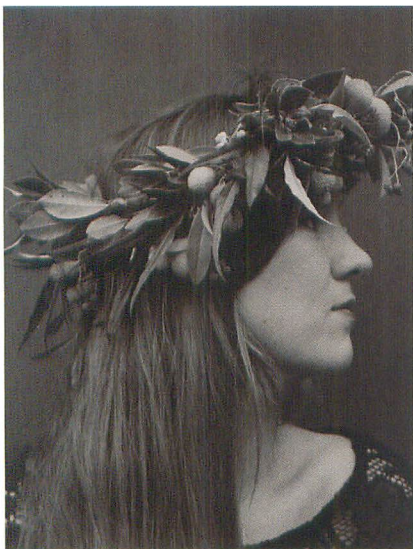
# Where the Wild Things Are

## FINDING INSPIRATION IN THE UNTAMED

BY MAISIE SMITH

Bergen Teschner is a forager. On any given day, you'll find her wandering through forests, meadows and secret gardens to gather botanical treasures for her business, Fire and Blooms.

Flowers captured her heart and soul at a young age. Some of her earliest memories are of helping her grandfather tend to his dahlias and watering the garden with her mom.



"I took a floral design class in high school and loved it," says Bergen. That led to a job with a local florist. "In college, I discovered something else I loved — pottery. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in ceramics and sculpture," she continues. "Over the next decade, I designed wedding florals for friends and family on the side. Every time I picked up a pair of clippers, I felt a sense of belonging. Like I was finally home. So I decided to combine my two arts into one business and call it Fire and Blooms. Botanicals influence my pottery and sculpture informs my floral design. I get to create a message of love using my hands, the earth, fire and flowers."

It's positively enchanting.

Bergen's work focuses on foraged florals, wildflowers and locally grown flowers. "I use locally sourced blooms and greenery from small farms around the Olympic Peninsula. My foraging adventures help me achieve the wild, free-flowing look I am known for," she notes.

Bergen asks each bride she works with to create a floral vision board and color palette for their big day. "As an artist, I work best when I am given a vision as well as space for artistic freedom. Florals aren't something that can be easily replicated. Everything I create is unique. I think of it as a timestamp of your wedding day. Imagine using flowers that were growing and blooming the week of your wedding!" says Bergen. "No two of my pieces will ever be exactly alike, which is part of the magic."

Foliage, berries, branches, pods, moss—inspiration can be found everywhere in the untamed world of Fire and Blooms. Organic lushness ushers in beauty and awe. Flowers breathe and sway. Delight runs wild. "I love making the world around me more beautiful and joyful through flowers," gushes Bergen.

Please visit [fireandblooms.com](http://fireandblooms.com) to see more of Bergen's work as well as schedule a consultation. She is currently accepting weddings for summer 2018. [PHOTOGRAPHY THIS PAGE: YELA CAREY]