



A Color Kaboom

This burst of summer hues is the handiwork of Urban Petals' Sarah von Schrader (202-297-4270, urbanpetals.com), who based her bouquet on "Flowers in an Urn" by Dutch artist Jan van Huysum. Among the plant life she corralled: Circus and spray roses, hyacinth, delphinium, Queen Anne's lace, nandina, salal and arum leaves. We only wish someone would invent Smell-O-Paper, because this baby's heady fragrance is a part of its appeal we just can't convey. Old van Huysum was an expert at painting masses of vibrant blooms (he did this one around 1720), so we'd suggest this style—let's call it "restrained explosion"—for any bride planning seriously color-saturated nuptials. Smaller versions in the bridesmaids' hands will create a happy cacophony that's fun without being too informal. (From the Adolph Caspar Miller Fund, on view in the National Gallery of Art's West Building, gallery 50)



KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Off the Wall

Floral inspiration from D.C.'s art museums

The problem with bridal magazines? Every woman in the hemisphere has the same four. Which means they're all bringing their florists the exact same pictures. We say, who needs wedding mags when we live in one of the museum capitals of the world! We asked four local florists to create arrangements inspired by works adorning the walls of Washington galleries. And don't let our choices limit you. You could use an image from the National Portrait Gallery and inform guests your bouquet is based on Mary Todd Lincoln's in a Mathew Brady photo, or head to the Hirshhorn for a truly post-modern posy.



Way to Van Gogh
Party like it's 1890, which is when Vincent van Gogh painted "Roses." Katie Martin of Elegance and Simplicity (301-656-5560, eleganceandsimplicity.com) modernized the one-eared wonder's work by incorporating apples, hydrangea, viburnum, green parrot tulips and jeweled accents for a centerpiece that would star at a funky spring wedding. (National Gallery of Art, Gift of Pamela Harriman in memory of W. Averell Harriman; on view in the West Building, gallery 84)



Small And Sweet
May Bernhardt of Mayflowers (703-709-1200, mayflowersinc.com) sweetly reinterpreted American modernist Marsden Hartley's 1942 "Wild Roses." His abstracted blooms live again via a subdued nosegay of roses and camellia leaves, wrapped in a frothy, moss-green cloth. The creation calls for an intimate summer wedding and a bride who knows that big isn't the only way to be beautiful. A smaller version would be adorable in the hands of a flower girl. (On view at the Phillips Collection)



Getting The Blues

We gave Philippa Tarrant (Philippa Tarrant Floral Design, 202-413-8562, philippatarrant.com) "Giant Magnolias on a Blue Velvet Cloth," painted by American artist Martin Johnson Heade around 1890; the white flowers were one of his fave subjects. She gave us mini anthuriums flanked by aspidistra leaves and tied with blue satin. (Gift of The Circle of the National Gallery of Art in Commemoration of its 10th Anniversary; on view in the West Building, gallery 69)

