

THE CULTIVATED

# Life

A lush arrangement paired with cut fruit recalls Frida Kahlo's iconic still lifes.

*masterclass*

## RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Frida Kahlo's vibrant Mexico City home is the setting for an artful flower-arranging class hosted by expert Ariella Chezar.



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Students in Flower School New York's study-abroad program privately tour Kahlo's residence (known as Casa Azul); here, the artist's workspace overlooks the garden patio. Ariella Chezar composes a bouquet in a comote bowl, her preferred vessel for dramatic arrangements. Vivid ultramarine walls serve as inspiration for Chezar: "That blue can hold really intense colors, so I went full throttle with bright, primary hues." The house's kitchen. A bouquet features an exuberant palette of coral, saffron, and fuchsia. *Frida Kahlo with Magenta Rebozo "Classic,"* a 1939 Nickolas Muray photo.



The stone courtyard at the heart of Frida Kahlo's historic Mexico City home was teeming for floral designer Ariella Chezar's recent Flower School New York workshop: buckets spilled roses and gladioli; star fruit tumbled across tables. Students pulled from those ingredients as Chezar demonstrated her techniques, and the results were a riotous match for the magical setting. □





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Garden roses sit beside fresh plums, gladiola, coal incense, and passion fruit: "I use fruit, especially on the branch, whenever possible for a layer of sensuality and beauty," Chezar says. A mix of blooms in saturated jewel tones from the local flower market were the main components of the students' arrangements. Chezar's other market finds included squash, star fruit, mandarins, and clay beads—inspired by Kahlo's own idiosyncratic works and personal collections. The courtyard of Casa Azul. Chezar leads students as they create arrangements: "People are so touched during these classes—there's something powerful about physically interacting with flowers." [flowerschoolny.com](http://flowerschoolny.com).