

## STUDIO VISIT

# The Spin on It

IN CONNECTICUT, CERAMIST **FRANCES PALMER** CREATES MODERN HEIRLOOMS AND LUSH VIGNETTES.

BY INGRID ABRAMOVITCH



**F**RANCES PALMER'S NEW BOOK is called *Life in the Studio* (Artisan). And what a life she leads. At her 19th-century home in Weston, Connecticut, she has created a modern-day Bloomsbury where she crafts pottery for collectors like Martha Stewart and Aerin Lauder and grows flowers for the Dutch master-worthy still life images that have earned her a sizable following on Instagram. Oh, and she is the photographer behind the lens, too. Palmer works out of a light-filled, bi-level studio that she designed with help from her husband, Wally. "We found a 1790s house, moved the beams to the property, and put up new walls," she says. There are four kilns and two large gardens, including one she converted from an old tennis court so that she would have ample space for her blooms and beehives. "I'd rather grow flowers than play tennis," she observed on my recent visit. Advantage: Dahlias. [francespalmerpottery.com](http://francespalmerpottery.com) ■

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** A still life by Frances Palmer features her Vigee Footed bowl, \$525. The ceramist at her pottery wheel. White earthenware vases are stacked on an antique worktable in Palmer's studio. The garden, overflowing with dahlias, in front of her 1860s house in Weston, Connecticut.



FRANCES PALMER. EXCERPTED FROM LIFE IN THE STUDIO. BY FRANCES PALMER (ARTISAN) © 2020