HOMES + DECOR

The Still Life Photographer Who Is Reinterpreting Dutch Masters

In her new book, *Seizing Beauty*, Paulette Tavormina creates fruit-and-floral portraits of dazzling splendor

By Jennifer Fernandez

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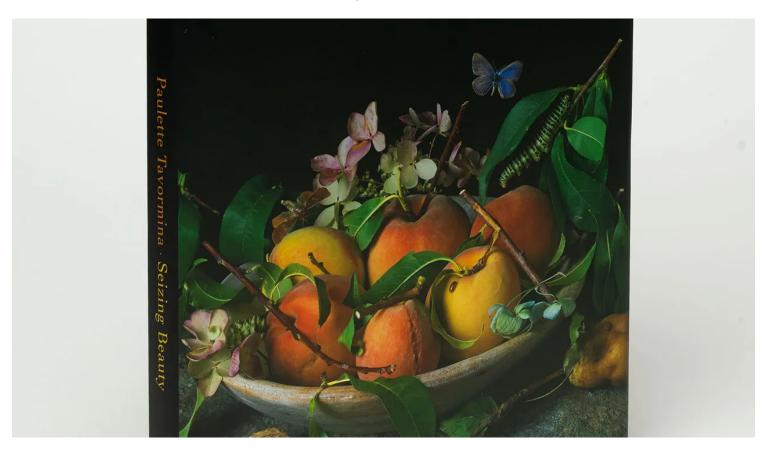


Photo: Paulette Tavormina/Courtesy of the Monacelli Press

Fans of still lifes painted by the Dutch masters of the 17th and 18th century will find plenty to love in the work of <u>Paulette Tavormina</u>. In her new book, <u>Seizing Beauty</u> (The Monacelli Press, \$65), in stores now, the New York–based photographer has compiled a collection of carefully crafted vignettes of astounding beauty, combining fruit, <u>flowers</u>, and unexpected fauna (a monarch here, a grasshopper there) in moody compositions that seem to glow from within. A tableaux of lemons and pomegranates comes to life under Tavormina's atmospheric light; peonies and wisteria seem to bloom on cue. Accompanied by essays by such art and photography historians as Silvia Malaguzzi, Anke Van Wagenberg Ter-Hoeven, and Mark Alice Durant, each shot is at once classic and of-the-moment, a meditation on the fleeting nature of life and love as interpreted through Tavormina's romantic lens. Here, ten of the tome's most inspiring works.



Photo: Paulette Tavormina/Courtesy of the Monacelli Press

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Lemons and Pomegranates, After J.V.H., 2010.

