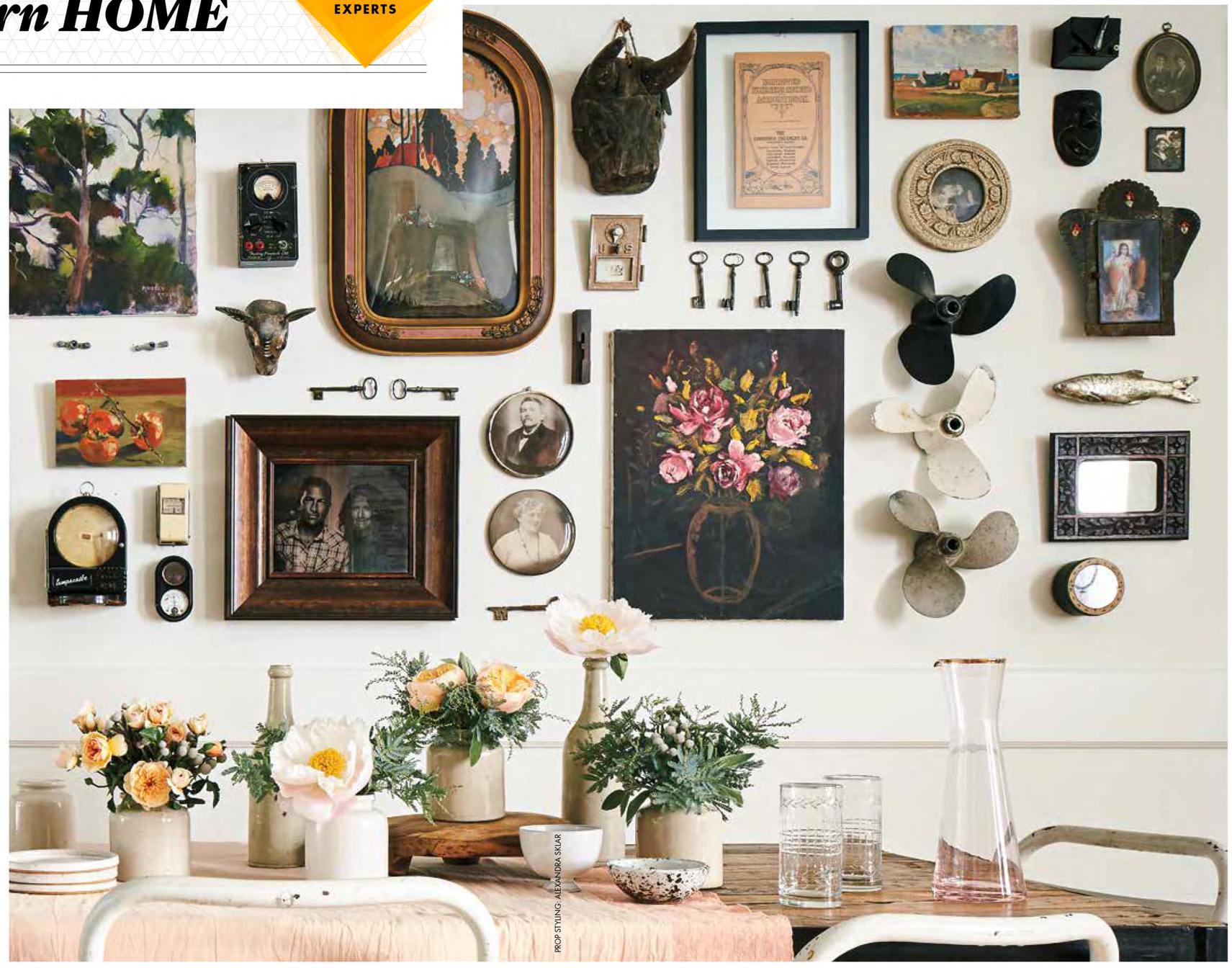
In the Western HOME

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

NAILING IT

Ah, the gallery wall—that beloved (albeit ubiquitous) design feature. Inside her 1910 farmhouse in California's Santa Cruz Mountains, Suna Lock, owner of Stripe Design Group and Stripe shops, turns a blank space on its head by dodging conventional sets of framed images in favor of easy-to-source, 3-D gatherings that don't break the bank. "The context for me is nostalgia," says Lock, who assembles old portraits and vintage art alongside curiosities such as antique skeleton keys, hard-edged salvaged machinery, and whimsical feathers. "The mixture of paintings, photographs, and found objects is important to keeping the composition interesting." To curate a cohesive look, start by identifying a few favorite items and then build a collection around that aesthetic, whether by color or genre. Here she shares her tips for pulling off a picture-perfect ensemble with heart. —*Chantal Lamers*

Flowers by Willi Wildflower, Santa Cruz, williwildflower.com. Vintage cut glassware, prices vary; footed ceramic dessert cups, $10; vintage pink gold-rimmed carafe, $42; wood pedestal, $38; Jonas Davidson stoneware plates, $18; (items available in-store only) stripedesigngroup.com. Petite Quail Egg bowls, $26; sarahkersten.com. Grain sack runners (dyed by stylist), $100/each; patinedecor.com. French bistro chairs, $249; vintage French mustard pot, $24; beer bottles, $39; elsiegreen.com.



PROP STYLING: ALEXANDRA SKLAR

STEP BY STEP

ESTABLISH A CANVAS
Using painter's tape, frame a space on a blank wall to design within.

ASSEMBLE ELEMENTS
Hunt for pieces at home next, says Lock. "For example, inherited items from your family and old love letters tied in a ribbon and written in cursive are lovely."

FILL IN THE GAPS
Pick through antique- and salvage-shop bins, flea markets, and eBay listings for inexpensive objects to round out the collection. Then create piles like "must use," "might use," and "extra."

START DESIGNING
To compose your collection, set out groups of items in small sections on a floor or table, beginning in the corners with pieces that have a square edge.

HANG IT UP
Lock passes over new nails in favor of the rusty variety, the kind she can buy in a jar for a couple of bucks at a garage sale. The patina of old nails feels less conspicuous when hanging weathered pieces, she says.

PHOTO FINISH
Need to make an adjustment? Dab a bit of spackle over nail holes with a fingertip. Once dry, touch up with a small painter's brush. When your look is complete, remove the painter's tape.

Photograph by DAVID FENTON

DIGITAL BONUS More inspo for a flawless wall arrangement: ***sunset.com/gallerywall.***