

Basic Design "At Home With Flowers"

UNIT 5 Creative Design, part one class notes, page 1

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What is creativity? Is it the ability to see and feel in the minds eye and then bring that vision to reality through the use of plant material? Creativity is imagination made visible. It comes from the heart, mind and hands of a living person. But a designer must first learn the rules of designing before feeling free enough to bring her inner vision into the creation.

In every design there is some creativity because it is a form of self-expression. Exhibitors reflect their own inner beauty, happiness, love, caring and sharing through flowers. The creative person is always moving and finding new ways to capture the imagination. Choosing to be creative requires determination, perseverance, observation and flexibility.

Understanding the tools of designing (elements) and the characteristics they possess is important in the selection of plant material. New forms created by clipping, piercing or pruning can excite as the spark of creativity unfolds. The design principles are the backbones of creative design. They bring order and meaning to what we create.

Principles of Design
Balance
Rhythm
Dominance
Contrast
Proportion
Scale

Elements of Design
Line
Color
Light
Texture
Pattern
Form
Size
Space

PLASTIC ORGANIZATION is interaction with space to achieve great depth.

CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Simplicity is the key, using only 2-3 kinds of material.
2. Little or no transitional material
3. Forms made are spontaneous rather than planned
4. Actual space plays an important role
5. May have more than one focal area
6. Eclectic in concept
7. Structural clarity evident
8. May have more than one point of emergence
9. Degree of abstraction varies:
 - a. minor abstraction
 - b. Moderate abstraction
10. Intense, sometimes clashing colors
11. Sharp contracts

Simplicity is the key to all good design. Use only 2-3 kinds of material. Little or no transitional material is used. There are strong line and colors if you wish to use them: unusual components, accessories, exotic or bold material is the key to uniqueness. Personal expression means picturing a feeling - making a statement and showing it in a new way.

Creative work is not bound by rules, styles, etc. With the help of the principles of design, inspiration, generated by imagination can be powerful and lead to beautiful inner peace and satisfaction for the creative person.



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PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE CREATIVE DESIGNER:

Balance	Dynamic balance in creative design is a balance of forces, appearing to have motion which creates tension and counterbalance
Dominance	In creative design, the container may be dominant, which may be abstract in nature or free form such as driftwood.
Contrast	Contrast adds spice to the design. In creative designs, simplicity is the source of original and creative thought processes and important in not having a cluttered look.
Rhythm	Rhythm in creative design may not be smooth but still may be achieved by minimal repetition of colors or gradation, even though it might be spotty.
Proportion	Proportionate areas must be pleasing including space which is a main element in creative designs
Scale	Wide variances can be tolerated in more creative designs where less plant material is used.

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In creative design, one element must play a dominant role in the design.

SPACE - COLOR - LINE - FORM - PATTERN - SIZE - LIGHT

The creative reserve that all of us have is the courage to act on your own knowledge of the past to strive for the future. Creativity is adventure, something totally yours. It is your interpretation, your challenge and becomes a design to give you full satisfaction of your achievement. Speak with your heart and soul, not your lips - that is creativity

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PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE THE CREATIVE DESIGNER:

MODERN CREATIVE DESIGNS INCLUDE EXCITING CONCEPTS IN COLOR AND LIGHT.

LUSTER is described as brightness, radiance and brilliance such as the glass pendants on a chandelier. It is achieved in creative floral design by placing pure brilliant color against a black background.

IRIDESCENCE This color dynamic is achieved by shifting a rainbow of color changes and seeing it from different angles. It is often seen in bubbles or an abalone shell.

FLUORESCENT COLOR If a color can be three dimensional, this is it! This brightness can jump out at you and is used in creative designs to add intensity and sparkle.

Creative designs using light, color and pattern, specifically include:

OP ART DESIGNS - patterns and colors make the eye move back and forth.

ILLUMINARY DESIGNS - Lights are incorporated into the design.

REFLECTIVE DESIGNS - Designs using reflective material to give back images of light.

Creative design is an expression in which plant material is utilized as pure line, form, color and texture to create new images especially in Abstract design.

Selective plant material and components are utilized to communicate with the viewer.

WITH CREATIVE DESIGN, DARE TO BE DIFFERENT! THE SKY IS THE LIMIT!

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UNIT 5 Creative Design, part one What to Bring to Class

Also see Miniatures What to Bring

Suggested Materials for Unit 5 - Creative Design

Your choices of:

Aspidistra leaves
Artichokes (fresh or dried)
Aucuba
Carnations
Dried Hydrangeas
Equisetum
garlic pods
gourds (large, odd-shaped)
grasses

Mums (medium-large, any color)
Okra pods
Nandina
Papyrus
Philodendron leaves
Sanseveria
Vines (grape, honeysuckle, etc.)
Ting ting
Wheat

Mechanics and tools

- clippers
- wire cutters
- florist tape
- needlepoint holders
- pin cups
- scissors
- "stickum"
- floral foam
- water tubes
- floral wire

Tropical or exotic materials

Anthurium
Bamboo
Banksia
Crotons
Driftwood

Palm leaves
Palm spathes
Philodendron selloum
Protea
Strelitzia (Bird of Paradise)

Containers

Anything that suits your fancy and will be suitable for your plant material. Look for the unusual. It can be something handmade.

Bases

Only if needed to tie together the design.

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UNIT 5 Miniatures, part two class notes, page 4

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Throughout history people have been fascinated by the making of miniatures. We know that small figures of animals have been found in archeological digs of many periods from all over the world. Ancient Egyptians created beautiful jewelry using tiny animal figures. Collections of Peruvian miniature vessels no more than two inches high have been discovered in ancient graves, which possibly held small bouquets of fragrant flowers and herbs. Although today we use the word "miniature" to describe anything that is a small reproduction of something larger, the word is derived from the Latin word "minium". Minium was the design used on borders of paper and around initials in manuscripts and musical scores.

The art of Bonsai certainly has to be mentioned in speaking of miniatures. The Japanese jealously guarded the secrets of growing dwarf trees for many years. However, through their willingness to teach this ancient art, the growing of bonsai is now carried on in many countries.

PLANT MATERIAL

The most exciting thing that happens to an arranger of miniature flowers is that nature's world suddenly has a new dimension. A bud, a twig, tendril, seed or even the new growth of an established older plant produce possibilities for these fine designs.

Birch catkins
Maple seeds
Mosses
Needles
Sedum
Herbs

Pussy Willow
Alyssum
Lichens
Liriope
Juniper
Statice

Spirea
Thrift
Berries
Equisetum
Small Holly
Wildflowers

MECHANICS

Tweezers are a must; manicure scissors, cuticle stick with a blunt end to press things into place, and an eye dropper for watering. A small rigid dried stem, or a darning needle, are handy to make a pre-determined hole for placing a weak stem. A ruler, a steady hand and a good pair of bi-focals are also useful. The mechanics need to accomplish the desired results can tax even the most ingenious mind. Small pin holders can be found made especially for miniatures,. You can use floral glue, florist clay, chicken wire crushed into small spaces - to give support. Floral foam is better crumbled or powdered so as not to be too stiff to accept fragile stems. Larger hollow stems can help support small stems.

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CONTAINERS

Containers are abundant. Perfume bottles, lipstick cases, lids, little boxes, pill bottles, buttons, pieces and parts of larger items such as drawer pulls and your children's toys, are all usable.

Even seeds, pods, cones or shells can be used to hold a tiny design.

The use of accessories follows the same determining qualities as larger designs - approximately 1/3 of the design and as needed for emphasis or to help tell the story.

Miniatures are good teachers!

Interest in miniature designs has increased in flower shows due to the ease of staging. A true miniature design is no more than five inches in height, width or depth. From this, we can begin to "feel" the size. A good way to immediately visualize a five-inch area is to look at the span of your hand from the tip of your thumb to the apex of your forefinger. This, of course, can vary with each person but it is nice to know when you are out in the yard and wonder if a certain bloom is too large. Making miniatures is a good way to learn floral design because mistakes in color, design, proportion and scale will be glaring. However, since such small amounts of material are used, it is easy to discard and start over which means less waste. While all principles of design should be followed, the most important for miniatures or small designs are proportion and scale. A five-inch square of colored paper can be used as a guide. This will allow you to see the impact different colors have.



Enjoy the challenge of making a tiny design and let it be the beginning of a new, fun learning experience.

See [Miniatures](#) from previous classes

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Design shown created by Pat Weaver,
President Marietta Council of Garden Clubs

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UNIT 5 Miniatures, part two What to Bring to Class

Also see Creative Design [What to Bring](#)

Suggested Materials for Unit 5 - Miniatures

Your choices of:

Plant Materials

Birch catkins
Maple seeds
Mosses
Needles
Sedum
Herbs

Pussy Willow
Alyssum
Lichens
Liriope
Juniper
Statice

Spirea
Thrift
Berries
Equisetum
Small Holly
Wildflowers

Mechanics and tools

- tweezers
- manicure scissors
- cuticle stick
- eye dropper
- darning needle or small stick
- small ruler
- small pin holder
 - "stickum"
- floral foam

Containers

perfume bottles
lipstick cases
lids
little boxes
pill bottles
buttons

Pieces or parts of larger items such as drawer pulls or children's toys are all usable.

Even seeds, pods, cones or shells can be used.

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