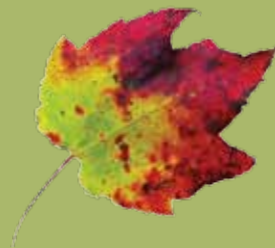




F L O W E R S H O W flowers

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2 Fall 2013



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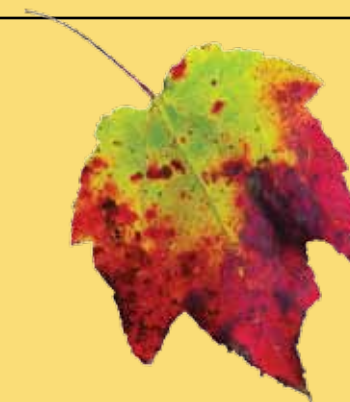
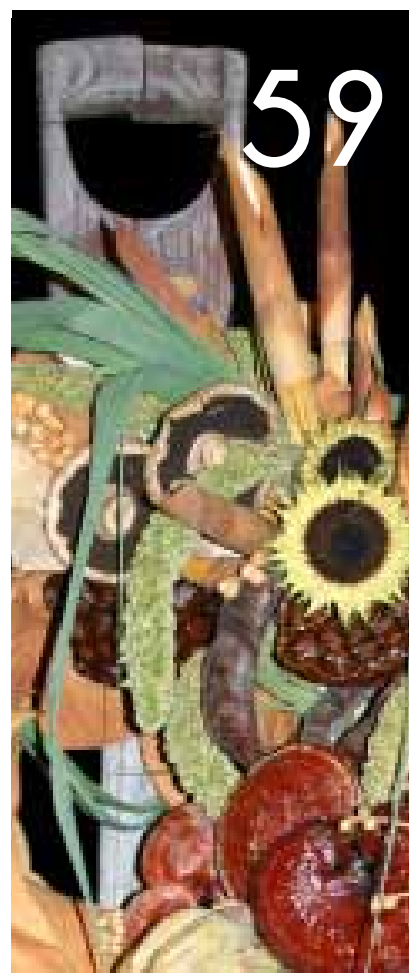
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Berkshire Haunts was a bewitching flower show. The show opened on the evening of October 18th under a glowing full moon. Visitors were treated to kooky floral designs, spooky horticulture, hocus pocus photography and frightfully important educational exhibits.

53. BEAU • TANICAL • ARTS

Botanical Arts in flower shows is becoming more popular. Check out these two designs.

59. THE DECORATED WREATH

From laurel head pieces called "diadema," used by the ancient Greeks to denote power, status and wealth to metal head pieces, of precious stones and gold we now call crowns, the wreath has had a long history.



Dear Friends,

Autumn...what a wonderful time of year; colorful leaves, berries, nuts, and cones and so much more to design with. Before we begin with the bounty of Autumn... let's look at what took place earlier this summer.

In July, the Green Tree Garden Club, Kettle Moraine Garden Club, Lake Geneva Garden Club and Town and Country Garden Club played host to Art en Fleurs, a Major GCA Flower Show at the Milwaukee Public Museum. It was an around the world journey. Many of these prize winning designs are pictured here.

In October we visited Berkshire Haunts Flower Show in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts. It was a real kooky spooky event with many fun Halloween offerings. Ghouls, ghosts and goblins were there and you too can see the creations.

For your Halloween pleasure, we also have some instructions to create some scary pumpkins for your Halloween party.

Our columns are full of ideas and helpful how to hints. We have some autumn wreath designs featuring Magnolia leaves...the perfect accompaniment for any Fall holiday. Please enjoy...No tricks; only treats for you.

MaryEllen O'Brien
Editor



ART EN FLEURS FLOWER SHOW

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Welcome

MaryEllen O'Brien
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013

JULY 19 - 21, 2013

CLASS: CLUB CHALLENGE- DOORWAY TO THE WORLD - SWEDEN

BLUE

FLOWER SHOW flowers

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



FLOWER SHOW flowers

MaryEllen O'Brien
Editor

Layout & Design
MaryEllen O'Brien

FLOWER SHOW flowers
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by Editor: MaryEllen O'Brien

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MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Come In

In the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin along with Green Tree Garden Club, Kettle Moraine Garden Club, Lake Geneva Garden Club and Town and Country Garden Club hosted Art en Fleurs Flower Show at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Decorated doorways and windows paid tribute to an around the world tour. Classes included: European Travels, Latin America Dance, Asia Serenity and Beauty, Ancient Places and the Tropics. It was an around the world trip within the halls of the museum.

Entries not only included floral design and horticulture, but there was photography, botanical arts and needle arts for this world adventure.

Let's travel through some of the floral design offerings that were at the flower show in July 2013.

ART EN FLEURS FLOWER SHOW

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



This winning two-sided floral design represented the opening of King Tut's Tomb. One side in dazzling light (above) and the other still dark and in shadows (right). Design on a pedestal 24" x 24" x 36"h. Width and depth may not exceed 24" from the center of the pedestal. Viewed from all sides.



CLASS : ANCIENT PLACES

BLUE RIBBON,
BEST IN SHOW, THE MILWAUKEE MUSEUM CURATOR'S AWARD
and the GCA FENWICK MEDAL



CLASS: NORTH AMERICA – NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW CHALLENGE CLASS*

BLUE RIBBON

* Challenge Class provided all floral materials and other necessary materials. Design on a pedestal 18" x 18" x 36"h. Width and depth may not exceed 16" from center.



CLASS: IN THE TROPICS - CHALLENGE CLASS

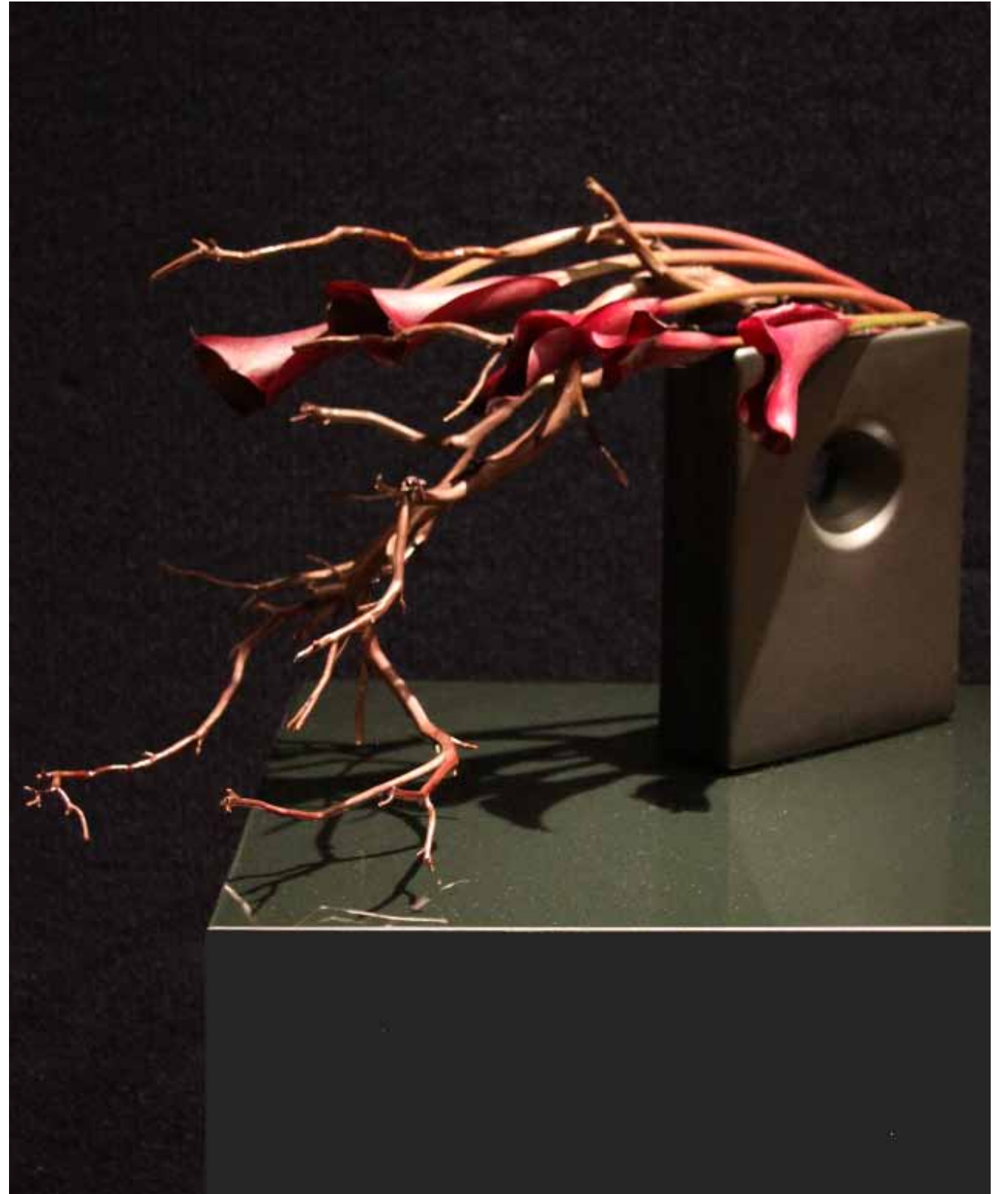
BLUE RIBBON

* Challenge Class provided all floral materials and other necessary materials. Design on a pedestal 16" x 16" x 40"h. Width and depth not to exceed 16" from the center.



CLASS: LATIN AMERICA - DANCE (The Tango) BLUE RIBBON and
GCA SANDRA BAYLOR NOVICE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AWARD

Design on a pedestal 18" x 18" x 36"h. Width and depth not to exceed 18" from the center of the pedestal. Viewed from all sides.



CLASS: ASIA - SERENITY & BEAUTY BLUE RIBBON

Design on a pedestal 16" x 16" x 40"h. Viewed from three (3) sides.



CLASS: EUROPEAN TRAVELS (Skyline of Turkey)

BLUE RIBBON

Novice Class on a pedestal 16" x 16" x 40"h, width and depth may not exceed 16" from the center of the pedestal.



CLASS: WHERE IN THE WORLD?
(This design extended 20' upward)

BLUE RIBBON

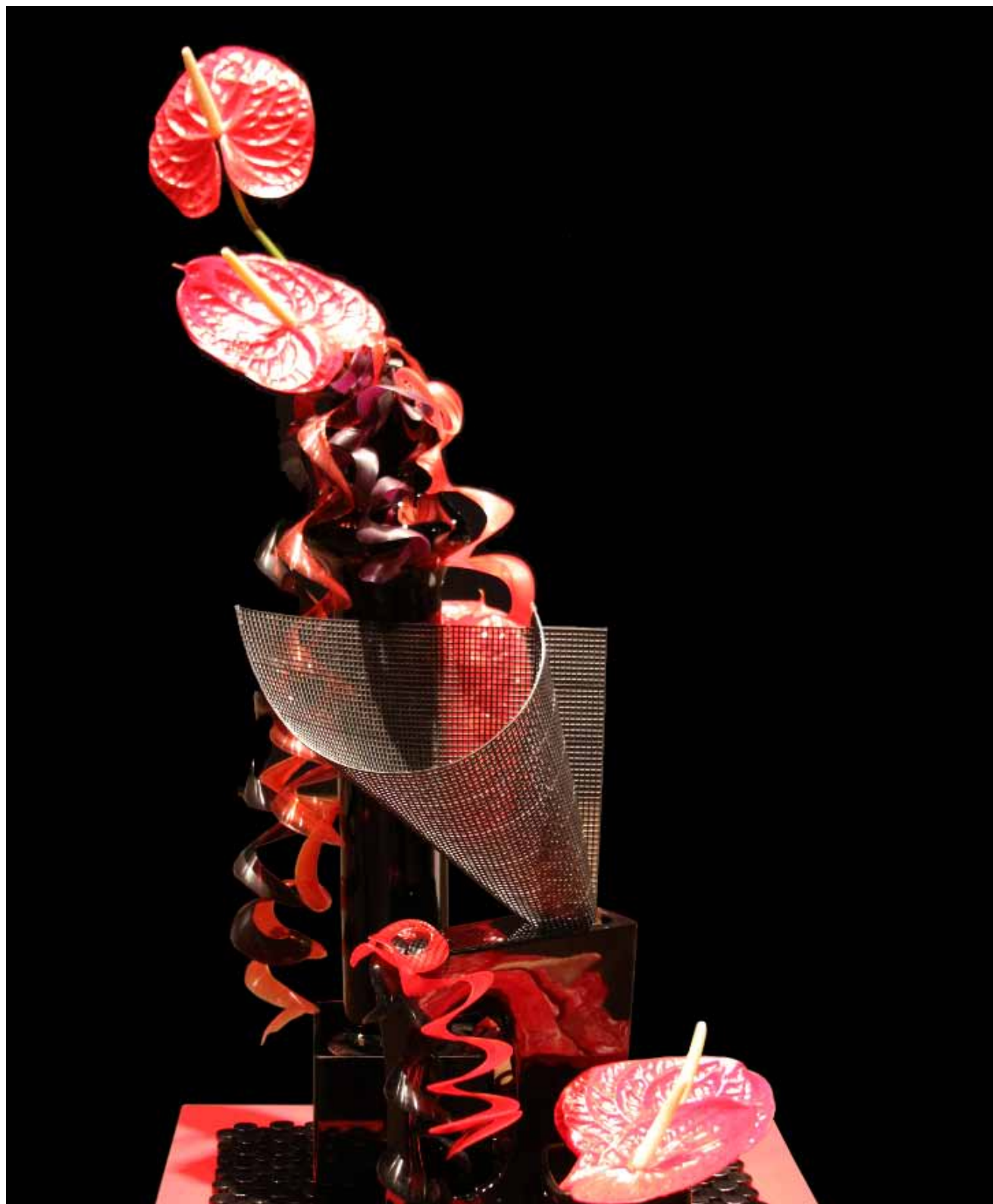
Functional table – a table arranged for dining, including dishes, glassware, and floral design(s).



CLASS: WINDOW TO THE WORLD

BLUE RIBBON

Window frame is 30”h x 24”w with a 6”x 24” box for floral design. The frame will be stationary on a 40” h pedestal. Design may not exceed 6” outside the window frame in any direction.



CLASS: LATIN AMERICA - DANCE (The Tango)

Design on a pedestal 18" x 18" x 36"h. Width and depth not to exceed 18" from the center of the pedestal. Viewed from all sides.



CLASS: ASIA - SERENITY & BEAUTY

Design on a pedestal 16" x 16" x 40"h. Viewed from three (3) sides.

Come Again!

The doors on the 2013 Art en Fleurs Flower Show have closed but plans are already in progress for the next major flower show adventure in 2016.



CLASS: CLUB CHALLENGE- DOORWAY TO THE WORLD - MEXICO
Close up of entry

TALL DESIGNS

DOLLARS AND \$CENTS Stretching your Flower Dollars Mechanics for TALL Designs

MaryEllen O'Brien
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013

Tall designs can be a challenge and sometimes a little bit frightening for novice and intermediate designers. Large and tall designs need to follow all the same principles and elements of design as smaller designs; however balance becomes a very important aspect in a tall design and can be more obvious if a problem exists.

To avoid balance issues, the best advice is to make sure that your mechanics are good and strong. If your mechanics for a tall design are not strong, your design may have issues causing plant materials to be unsteady. Spend time up front to insure a strong presentation.

Another important factor to remember for good balance is to finish all sides of your design; don't leave the back empty. An unfinished back in a floral arrangement can disturb the balance of your design. By adding plant materials to the back of your design, depth is achieved and a naturalistic design has been achieved.



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

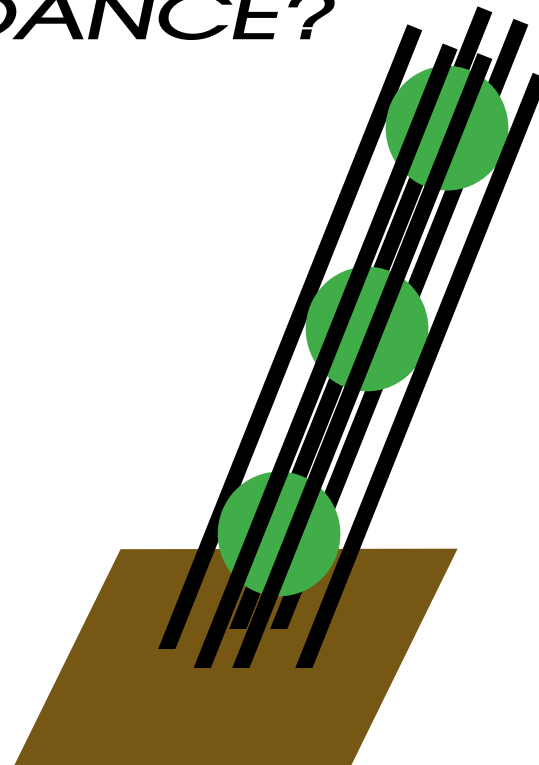
SHALL WE DANCE?

SUPPLIES

- 6 36" Wooden Dowels
- 3 4" Round Instant Foam pieces
- 12" x 12" Wood Base 3/4" thick
- Hammer and Saw
- Spray Paint
- Florist Tape
- Jack Knife or Clippers
- Midelino Reeds

PLANT MATERIALS

- 5 Obachi Anthuriums - Pink/Green
- 10 Anthurium andraenum - Purple
- 5 Leucospermum - Yellow
- 5 Mokara Orchid Stems - Orange
- 1 Stem Bromeliad Bloom
- 5 Stems Alocasia Leaves
- 10 Pandanus Leaves
- 5 Stems Curly Croton
- 10 Calathea insignis



Class Title: LATIN AMERICA – DANCE

Pedestal 18" x 18" x 36"h. Width and depth not to exceed 18" from the center of the pedestal. Viewed from all sides.

*STURDY MECHANICS ARE NECESSARY FOR A TALL DESIGN

1. Prepare your 12" square wooden base by drilling holes around a 4" circle for the dowels. Use a jig to ensure each drill hole is the same angle.

2. Spray paint the wood base and your 6 dowels. Let dry.

3. Glue each dowel in place and allow to dry for 24 hours.

4. Place 3 wet floral foam balls into the center area of the dowels and secures with floral tape to prevent the foam balls from slipping.

5. Begin by adding multiple pieces of the Midelino Reed to establish the a rhythmic design. Follow with the Pandanus and Calathea leaves to reinforce the rhythmic elements.

6. Keep adding your plant materials to the design: Anthuriums, Leucospermum, Mokara Orchids and Bromeliad Blooms. Check for any visible and cover with curly Croton leaves on a stem.



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

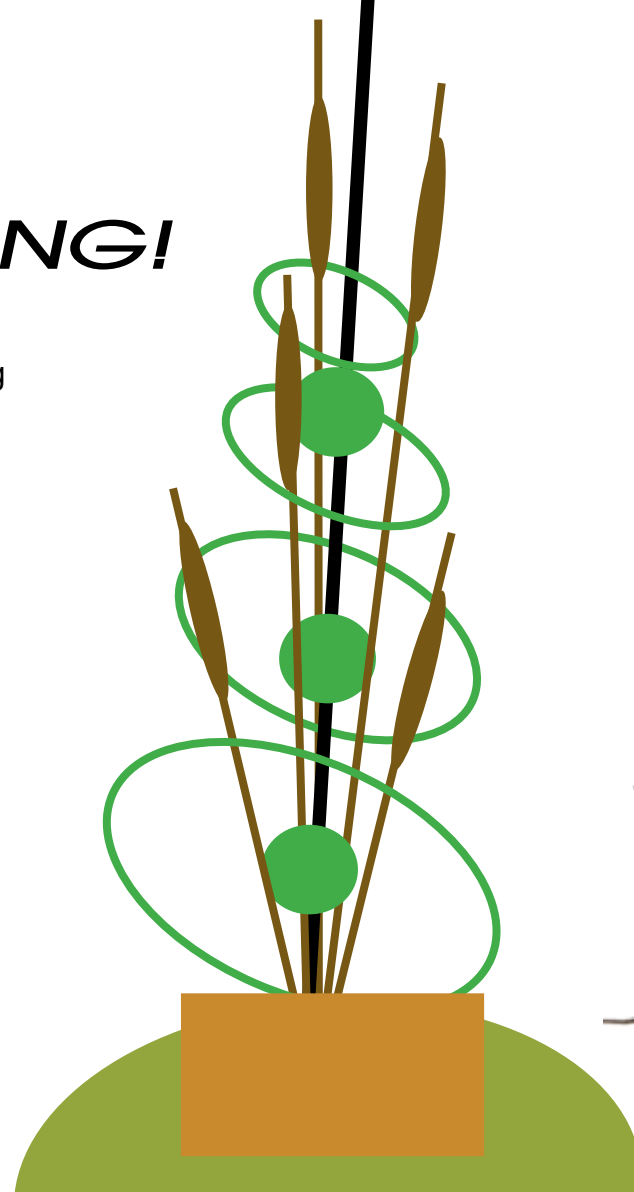
GONE FISHING!

SUPPLIES

- 1 Antique Bamboo, Boat Fishing Rod 6' long
- 1 Antique Fishing Creel
- 1 Fishing Net
- Table Clothes
- Table Setting / Wine Bottle with fish decor
- 1/2 Block Floral Foam
- 3 3" Mesh covered Foam Ball
- Square Ceramic Vase
- Waterproof Floral Tape
- Clippers / Jack Knife
- Green Florist Spool Wire

PLANT MATERIALS

- 2 Lichen Covered Tall Branches
- 5 Cattails
- 5 Alocasia
- 10 Pandanus
- 3-5 Pittsoporum or other green fill foliage
- 5 Lilies stems
- 5 Black Kangaroo Paws stems
- 2 Tillandsia Plants
- 5-7 Dried Fungi



Class Title: SHADOWS AND SHADE

A picnic setting to include a fresh flower arrangement. Accessories permitted. Staged on a round pedestal 31" high with a 30" diameter top. Viewed from all sides. Blue Ribbon and Best in Show / Berkshire Botanical Garden 2012

*SECURE TALL PLANT MATERIAL IN A TALL DESIGN

1. Secure 1/2 block of wet floral foam behind your fishing creel. Use a waterproof ceramic container (something with a least one flat side to sit snugly behind creel). Secure the container to creel.
2. With a piece of floral wire, draw the wire through the mesh covering on the floral foam ball. Attach to the fishing pole using the metal pole guide as the point of attachment. Add a second wire at the base of the foam and wire to the fishing pole. Two points of attachment will keep the foam ball from twisting and keep your floral design secure. Repeat with the second and third floral foam ball.
3. Add lichen covered branches; secure to the creel.



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

GONE FISHING!

4. Begin placing the tall cattails into the back floral foam. As you are placing the stems, be aware of the angle of placement. Visually the stems should appear to be emerging from a central point; this gives a more naturalistic appearance to the design.

5. Once this basic structure is complete begin placing the Pandanus and Alocasia in a circular sweeping pattern around the upright structure of the pole, branches and cattails. This will add a rhythmic element for the eye to travel through.



6. Place lilies into the design. Be sure to stagger their heights for a well integrated look. This will add to the rhythm to the design and reinforces the movement by drawing the eye from to another lily bloom.

7. Tillandsia are rather large in form and therefore need to be placed closer to the base of the design. Place one close to the front and the second in the rear to create depth with the plant materials. Never leave the backside of the floral design empty and void of plant materials.

8. Place the dried fungi in a stacking manner similar to the manner in which is grows naturally. Several groupings should be made. One in the front and the second group a little bit higher and to the side. This will reinforce the circular rhythmic movement. The large grouping of fungi in the front will also act as a focal point for the design.

9. Lastly check for any visible mechanics. Insert Pittsoporum as needed to hide any obvious mechanics such as the floral foam or wire. Look for any empty spaces in the design and fill with the remaining plant material to complete the design.

10. Place the design on a your prepared exhibition table that has been clothed and decorated with a salmon fish design plate(s), charger plate(s) and glass(es). Put your wine bottle into the fishing creel. Hopefully you will be lucky enough to have one that sports the drawing of a beautiful salmon!



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

LIGHTHOUSE

SUPPLIES

Jack Knife or Clippers

- 1 30" tall Clear Glass Vase
- 1 14" x 4" clear Round Vase
- 1 4" rounds ball floral foam

Waterproof Tape

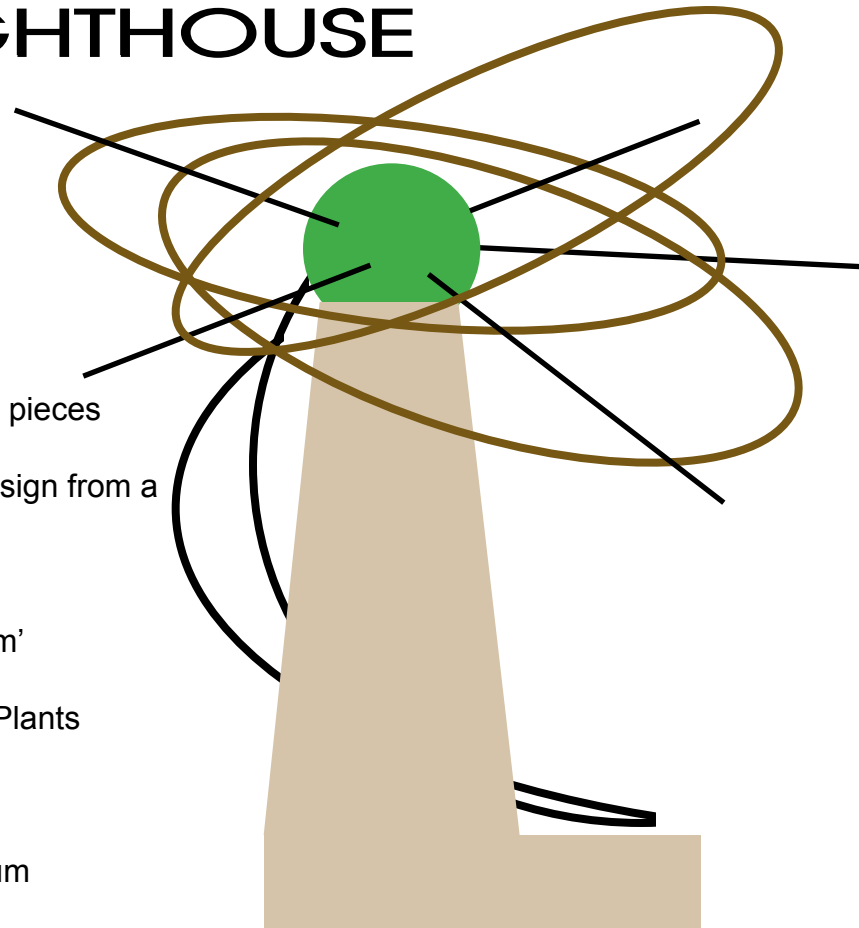
Clear tumbled broken glass pieces

- 1 4"x1' cube Clear plexiglass

Hint: Invert a glass vase - Try a design from a new perspective.

PLANT MATERIALS

- 3-4 Curly Willow Branches
- 15 Phormium tenax 'Purpureum'
- 12 Anthurium (small blooms)
- 3 Cryptanthus 'Black Mystic' Plants with trimmed roots
- 10 Sempervivium 'Mona Lisa'
- 5-6 branches Salix matsudana
- 6-7 Leaves Philodendron selloum
- 6-7 Leaves Anthurium



Class Title: LOVE LIGHT

Minot Ledge Light signals 1-4-3 and is locally referred to as the "I love you" light. An design reflecting the local coastline.

Red Ribbon and Dorothy V. Munger Award / Light the Land Flower Show 2013

*STACKED VASES CAN ELEVATE YOUR DESIGN

1. Lighthouses are typically very tall. The base is wide and gently narrows as you reach the top. My challenge was to find a clear vase of similar proportions to use for this design. To begin, I placed my 14" x 4" clear glass vase on the show pedestal and added some pieces of clear tumbled glass chips in the bottom of the container. I also positioned the 4" x 1" plexiglass cube in the container.

2. Invert the tall cylinder vase to resemble a light house structure. Place it extending over the edge of the lower container so that it touches in 2 points. Use the plexiglass cube to catch the inside edge and hold the vase upward...it appears to be hovering in mid air. Add water to within a half inch of the top of the lower vase; add more glass chips as needed.

3. Take your wet 4" round floral foam ball and trim the bottom so it will sit flat against



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

the top of the inverted tall vase. Secure with waterproof floral tape.

4. Take your Curly Willow Branches (*Salix matsudana*) and place several smaller branches inside the inverted vase. Be sure to place them high and touching the inside of the vase. Plant material will eventually hide the ends. Next begin placing more willow branches in the floral foam to create rounding shapes to represent the circular light pattern of the lighthouse.

5. Follow this with the long leaves of the Flax (*Phormium tenax* 'Purpureum') to reinforce the rhythmic movement.

6. Next Add Anthuriums, Anthurium foliage and the leaves of the Philodendron selloum.

7. Add 1 Bromeliad at the top and 1 at the base in the lower container. More Anthuriums can be added to the base to unify the design.

8. Check for any visible mechanics and adjust with any remaining plant materials.

HINTS: When using clear glass containers, be sure to check for any errant fingerprints on the glass. Make sure the water in the bottom container is absolutely clear and free of any plant debris that might have fallen while doing the floral design. Top off the water as needed. When doing any Underwater Floral Designs use distilled water. Distillation removes minerals allowing the water to stay clear for longer time. If distilled water is not available, a few drops of bleach can be added to the water to prevent bacteria from growing and discoloring tap water.



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GHOSTLY APPARITION

SUPPLIES

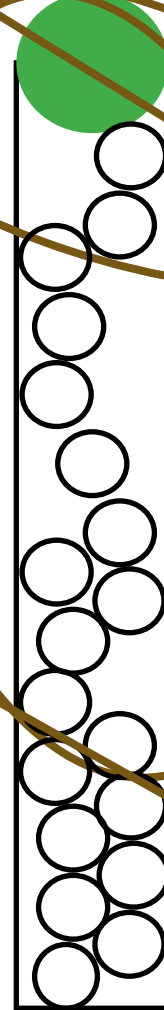
- 6 48" Tall Clear Tall Vase
- 1 6" Round Instant Foam pieces
- Florist Tape
- Jack Knife or Clippers
- Clear Plastic Wrap

PLANT MATERIALS

- 24 Allium cepa (Large White Onions)
- Dried Cecropia palmate Leaves
- 3 Tillandsia xerographica (Air Plant)
- 10 Zantedeschia aethiopica (large)
- 6 Stems Bleached Amaranthus caudatus
- 10 Alocasia amazonica leaves
- Artemesia stelleriana
- 8 Cordyline terminaslis (Ti Leaves)
- Corylus avellana 'Contorta' (Hazelnut)
- 24 Curtisia dentata (Assegai Spears)
- 24 Rosa (White Roses)

Class TITLE: GHOST STORY

A design on a 16" black cube. The floral design has no height restriction and will be viewed from all sides.



*A VERY TALL VASE WILL HELP YOU REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

1. Clean the vase and remove all fingerprints and smudges. A clean vase is the key to success in this design.

2. Add your large white onions into the vase. Place an Alocasia leaf flat on the top edge of the vase. Nest place a piece of plastic wrap followed by your floral foam ball. The plastic wrap will prevent dripping water from the foam ball to enter the vase. Secure the foam ball to the vase with waterproof florist tape and the twist the stem of the Alocasia in the foam for a water source.

3. Balance your Contorted Hazelnut branches in a downward sweeping motion and secure to the vase with waterproof tape. You are now ready to begin placing the rest of the plant materials.

4. The dried Cecropia Leaves, preserved Amaranthus, and the Tillandsia plants need no water source and therefore can be placed far down and away from the foam ball.



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



Today in floral design, many designers are using clear plastic water tubes as a design feature and for providing a water source in sculptural design where wet floral foam is cumbersome. Tubes can be covered with yarn, colorful aluminum wire, leaves, bark, moss and so much more. They can be attached to a floral design using a wire. Once attached to a form, the problem of filling these little tubes becomes quite evident. Most conventional watering cans are too large and water is spilled.

The solution is a plastic wash bottle with an angled spigot spout. Tubes can easily be filled from the small stream that the bottle provides.

These bottles are easy to find from scientific warehouses and at Amazon.com. On the Amazon website they may be had for as little as \$1.45 and up... A small investment for such a valuable floral tool.

Halloween Hauntings...at BERKSHIRE HAUNTS a Kooky Spooky Flower Show

MaryEllen O'Brien
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013

Berkshire Haunts was a bewitching flower show sponsored by The Lenox Garden Club of Zone I and held in conjunction with The Sheffield Historical Society's Spiritfest 2013 in Sheffield, MA. The show opened on the evening of October 18th under a glowing full moon. Visitors were treated to kooky floral designs, spooky horticulture; hocus pocus photography and frightfully important educational exhibits.

Floral design classes had imaginative and design provoking titles such as Mr. Jack O'Lantern: "Welcome to the Sheffield Historical Society" (a floral design incorporating a pumpkin). The Witching Hour: "She peeked inside the cottage window just as the clock was striking the midnight bell; and there, leaning against the fireplace mantel, the witch's broomstick could be seen in the glow of the remaining embers". Ghouls, Ghosts and Goblins: "The wind blew, she listened intently...soft murmurs could be heard; and then, suddenly, a loud shriek...somewhere a Goblin was lurking". Fright Night: "It was a cold and an eerie night...when, without warning, a bolt of lightning lit the sky and illuminated the room; at that moment an apparition appeared. It hovered, and waited". Lastly, Who's There?: "The sound of the dead bolt unlatching could be heard, the heavy wood door slowly opened ...it creaked and groaned, and there in the moonlight, a silhouette, dark and foreboding, stood in the doorway" (a Halloween mask class).

A little Halloween fun was had by all the participants and visitors alike. So why not consider a holiday themed flower show for your club's next show....and remember that flower shows aren't scary or frightening unless of course you're celebrating Halloween!



CLASS 1. MR. JACK O' LANTERN

Blue Ribbon

Greetings! Mr. Jack O'Lantern welcomes you. A design incorporating a pumpkin staged on an olive green pedestal 38.5" tall with a 12" square top. The floral design may not exceed 24" in any dimension. *This Blue Ribbon winning design features a painted pumpkin. The rich brown semi-gloss paint makes the pumpkin appear to have been freshly dipped into chocolate fountain. Marigolds and a variety of plant materials seem to be growing in the pumpkin patch with this devilishly delicious design.*



CLASS 3. GHOULS, GHOSTS and GOBLINS

Blue Ribbon

The wind blew, she listened intently...soft murmurs could be heard; and then, suddenly, a loud shriek...somewhere a Goblin was lurking. A design that includes gourd(s), displayed on an olive green pedestal. Wonderful contrast is found here. *The black painted gourds, grapevine and black vase are effective against the chartreuse green Molucca laevis (Bells of Ireland) and green Dianthus barbatus (Green Trick Carnation). Blue Ribbon, and GCA Dorothy V. Munger Award for this design.*



CLASS 3. GHOULS, GHOSTS and GOBLINS

The wind blew, she listened intently...soft murmurs could be heard; and then, suddenly, a loud shriek...somewhere a Goblin was lurking. A design that includes gourd(s), displayed on an olive green pedestal. The design will be viewed from the front.

Painted gourds that look like eyeballs and a painted white gourd for the head with banana stems for the rib cage; this was a crowd pleaser for both young and old visitors at the show.



CLASS 4. FRIGHT NIGHT

Blue Ribbon

It was a cold and an eerie night...when, without warning, a bolt of lightning lit the sky and illuminated the room; at that moment an apparition appeared. It hovered, and waited. A design staged on a 16" olive green cube. The floral design may rise to 6' from the floor. The design will be viewed from all sides. *Blue Ribbon, Best In Show and GCA Harriet D. Puckett Award. Contrasting textures from lichen covered branches with smooth white Oriental Lilies was just the ticket for this Fright Night entry.*



CLASS 5. WHO'S THERE?

The sound of the dead bolt unlatching could be heard, the heavy wood door slowly opened...it creaked and groaned, and there in the moonlight, a silhouette, dark and foreboding, stood in the doorway. A mask constructed from predominately fresh plant material staged on a form provided by the committee and placed on an olive green pedestal 38.5" tall with a 12" square top. The design will be viewed from three sides.



CLASS 5. WHO'S THERE?

<Left This mask design was made from all fresh plant materials including: *Calathea insignis*, *Zingiber 'Chocolate Ball' Ginger*, and *Echerveria sp.*

^Above Here the designer chose a colorful burlap fabric and wove long lasting easy to dry flowers: *Limonium*, *Gomphrena globosa* and *Eryngium amethystinum* into the fabric.



CLASS 5. WHO'S THERE?

A combination of fresh and dried plant materials was used for this very creative mask design. Masses of bloom heads from Miscanthus grasses were used to create flowing hair. Fresh Hydrangea foliage cover the neck and Hedera helix (Ivy) forms a necklace under the chin. Paeonia (Peony leaves are used around the eyes with Echinacea purpurea for eyes watching through the mask.



CLASS 5. WHO'S THERE?

This intriguing interpretation is made from mostly dried plant material...a single red rose in the hand of the masked visitor is the only fresh plant material. The mannequin form has been covered with crushed dried Acer rubrum leaves. The hair standing tall on top of the head are stems of Hemerocallis (Day Lilies). Tree Fungi acts as shoulder pads and tree bark has been place around the neck in a collared effect. Eyes are covered with Acer rubrum seed pods. This masked mistress won a Blue Ribbon and a Creativity Award.

Blue Ribbon

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER

Floral Design Sampler...Jeepers (Creeper),

Tools • Supplies • Suggested Plant List • How To Techniques

MaryEllen O'Brien
Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



Tools

Clippers or Jack Knife

Supplies

1/6 piece of a Floral Foam block
Floral Tape
2" Floral Pins
Round Toothpick/Skewers
(Flat toothpicks will not work)
Scary Spider (optional)

Plant Materials

1 Pumpkin or Large Gourd
Veggies from the Supermarket:
Artichokes, Italian Peppers,
Mushrooms, Green Beans, Red
Jalapeño Peppers or any other
interesting veggies.
Deer Moss or Spanish Moss
Flowers: Spider Mums would
be perfect. Here I used Gerbera
Daisies
Foliage: Aspidistra Leaves were
rolled and stapled for effect.

Technique

Here's a fun idea to put a smile on the
faces of your Halloween guests.

- Find your perfect pumpkin (Orange, White, Bumpy or not).

- Cut a piece of floral foam (Approx. 1/6 of a block and soak in water.)
 - Place your wet floral foam on top of the pumpkin. Cut your floral tape long enough to extend over the wet foam and secure the tape into the pumpkin with 2" floral pins on either of the tape to keep the foam securely in place.
 - Trim the ends off of the artichokes; remove the entire stem. Place two toothpicks skewers into the base of the artichoke, position on the pumpkin and press down. Always use two skewers to prevent veggies from spinning.
 - When placing the peppers, put the two toothpicks into the pumpkin first, then apply the peppers into the skewers. Mushrooms maybe be attached with a single toothpick.
 - Rolled Aspidistra Leaves may be held in place with 2" florist pins.
 - Green string beans are held in place with 2" floral pins too. One pin can easily hold 4-5 beans.
 - Group your plant materials; put emphasis on blocks of color and contrasting textures. Do you recognize what style arrangement this is? YES...It's a MODERN MASS DESIGN on a pumpkin!
 - Place your Spider with toothpick skewers and fill any void spaces with Spanish Moss or Deer Moss.
- HINTS:** This design will keep for 4-5 days without any care. If you would like a design that would be longer lasting, consider using dried lotus pods, dried fungi, dead branches, wisteria seed pods, catalpa tree pods. Ornamental miniature corn on the cob is colorful and don't forget the autumn leaves that are falling from our trees or any colorful foliage from your area.

Tools

Clippers or Jack Knife

Supplies

2" Floral Pins / Black heads
Water tubes
Round Toothpick/Skewers
(Flat toothpicks will not work)
Black Eyelash Yarn
Scary Spider

Plant Materials

1 White Lumina Pumpkin
Italian Peppers
Mushrooms
Green Beans
Ginger Root and any other interesting veggies.
Deer Moss or Spanish Moss

Flowers:

Spider Mums would be perfect to place next to your Scary Spider.
Gerbera Daisies, Limonium, Gomphrena
Strawflowers
would also work nicely.

Foliage:

Aspidistra Leaves were rolled and stapled for effect.

Salal and any other sturdy leaf would also work.

Technique

• Attach your black yarn to the stem of the pumpkin. Begin placing the yarn into the vertical grooves of the Lumina pumpkin. Continue taking the yarn around and around until all grooves are filled with yarn. At the top place a 2" pin into the groove near the stem of the pumpkin. Wrap the yarn around it one full turn and move onto the next groove and place another pin wrapping the yarn around it in similar manner as the first pin. Continue pinning and wrapping

the yarn in a continuous horizontal manner until the bottom of the pumpkin is reach for a complete yarn cobweb pattern.

• Next begin placing your vegetables. Grouping the vegetables will create a strong Modern Mass effect. Begin your design by piercing the pumpkin with two skewers. Cut the tops of the skewers appropriately to the height of depth of your veggies. Place the veggies into the skewers. Two skewers per vegetable will keep them from twisting in place. Fold, roll or bend your Aspidistra then staple to keep your shape. The pieces can be pinned onto the pumpkin. Mushrooms need only 1 skewer. Green Beans were pinned on as well by placing 5-7 beans per pin and then attached to the pumpkin.

• Add the Spider with 2 skewers

• Lastly, cut the stem of the Spider Mums to a short stem and insert into water tubes. Place the tubes in the design tucked under the belly of the spider. Water tubes can be easily removed and refilled as needed with fresh water.

HINT: The design can be made ahead and refrigerated. The design should last 4-5 days with little care on your counter and or out of doors. Happy Halloween!

Creepy Crawlers,



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

and the Perfect Pumpkins (?) (?) for your Thanksgiving Table



Tools

Jack Knife
Needle Nose Pliers
Hot Glue Gun
Paper Towels for clean up

Supplies

4" Round Styrofoam Ball
Flat Green Floral Wire cut into
3-4" pieces

Plant Materials

1 lb. Cranberries
1 dried mini pumpkin stem

Technique

- Cut the top and bottom off of a 4" round Styrofoam ball to flatten the ball to resemble a mini pumpkin.
- Attach a pumpkin stem to the dried oasis with a liberal amount of hot glue. Let cool.
- Take the flat Green Floral Wire and cut into 4 pieces about 3-4 inches in length. Cut multiple pieces to save time.

- With the needle nose pliers turn the ends of the cut wires into a narrow U-Shape form at the top of each wire. (See picture 1). Bend multiple pieces to save time.

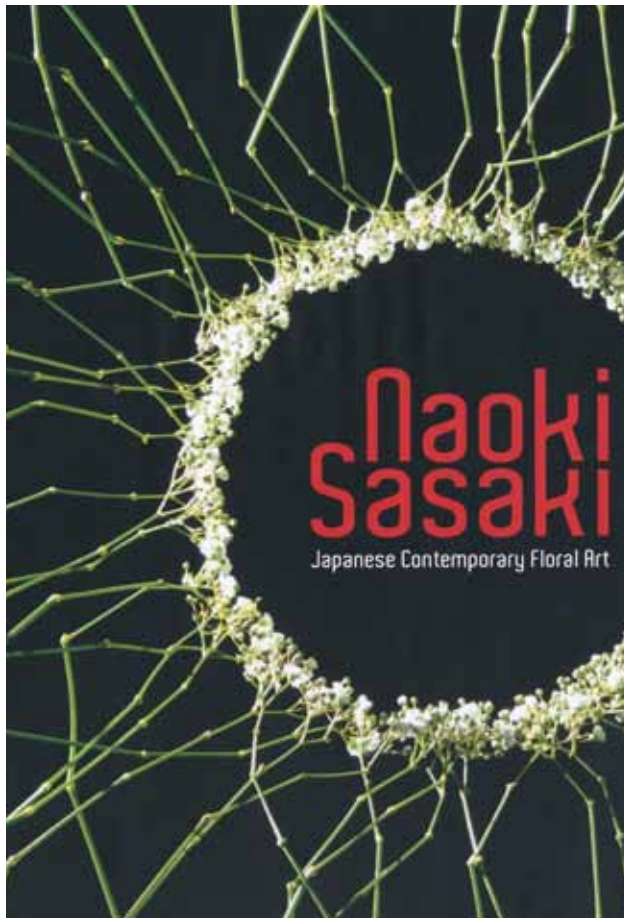
- Gently pierce the top of a cranberry, push wire through letting the U-Shape portion of the wire catch the top of the berry. Push both wire ends through the cranberry. The U-Shaped end will help to securely hold the cranberry in place.

- Begin placing the skewered cranberries around the pumpkin stems and fill the space in a circular motion until the foam is covered. The bottom portion may be left plain (without cranberries) so that it will sit flat without rocking.

HINTS: Cranberries are but one choice in creating these pumpkin shapes.

Craspedia would also work. Consider Hazelnuts and Acorns (use hot glue to cover the styrofoam). All of these offerings would make wonderful pumpkin shapes. Consider using larger round foam balls with larger pumpkin stems for a variety of shapes. Mix and match all the choices for a festive Thanksgiving table. Create ahead and refrigerate the cranberry pumpkin shape until you're ready to decorate. A great project for children or grandchildren, but remember that Glue guns should be used with adult supervision and handled with the utmost care.

Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien



JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY
FLORAL ART

By: Naoki Sasaki,
Hardcover – September 15, 2009
Hardcover: 96 pages
Publisher: Stichting Kunstboak
(September 15, 2009)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 9058562646
ISBN-13: 978-9058562647
Cost: under \$43.00

Even though this book was published in 2009, the designs of Naoki Sasaki are timeless and very intriguing. His style is very unique and very dramatic. His large installations are quite impressive and very beautiful. They appear simple but appearance can be deceiving. Upon close inspection the hours of time to create these masterpieces becomes evident. Even his smaller pieces have the same effect. His style is very calming.

The photo quality in the book is wonderful. Many photos are set against black backgrounds and the color pops. Both natural and man-made elements are used in conjunction with his floral creations...paper, bamboo, ceramic, and steel are placed against the most delicate flowers. Strong rhythmic branches against clay, Baby's Breath in a wood frame, white Veronica against white paper and branches artistically cut and positioned into multiple glass vase for the most rhythmic designs for the eyes to dance across.

Japanese Contemporary Floral Art by Naoki Sasaki is an inspirational and not to be missed.



Close up of "Modern Keepsake" design featuring a fancy Koi fish on a necklace. Read how this design was constructed from dried plant materials and the techniques that were employed.



THEN and NOW FLOWER SHOW, Lenox, Massachusetts
 Class Title: MODERN KEEPSAKE

Design a contemporary style necklace composed of dried plant materials. Staged on a form provided by the Committee and placed on an olive green pedestal 38.5" tall with an 12" square top. Viewed from the front.

Tools

Scissors
 Florist Jack Knife
 Tweezers
 Sandpaper in a variety of grits

Materials

Thin Wire
 White Glue
 Hot Glue
 Design Master Gold Paint
 Design Master Copper Paint
 Design Master Clear Paint
 Tack Cloth

Dried Plant Materials

3 Midelino Reed 24" long
 1 Cork from a wine bottle
 1 Paphiopedilum Orchid Flower
 2 Phalenopsis Orchid Leaves
 1 Inside of a Milkweed Pod
 Mustard Seeds

Technique

1. Soak Midelino Reed in warm water for several minutes. Remove and pat dry.
2. Hold the 3 strands of Midelino together and secure at one end with a thin piece of wire. Braid the 3 strands and secure the bottom end with another piece of wire.
3. Shape into an oval shape, place a weight on top of it and let it dry for 24hrs.
4. As the Midelino dries, begin working on the Koi fish. Remove the

inside seeds from a fresh mature head of a milkweed pod. Be careful not to disturb the seeds. Once removed, paint the seed formation with a diluted solution of White Glue and water. Let dry and then apply a second coat.

5. From the leaves of the Phalenopsis Orchid cut out two side fins and a top back fin a tail fin. Glue on the slipper portion of Paphiopedilum Orchid to the Milkweed Seed formation as the Koi's head. Two Mustard Seeds can be glue on the head to serve as eyes. Let dry.

6. Attach side fins and top back fin to the fish shape. Let dry.

7. Remove and glue on curly side petals from the Paphiopedilum to the tail fin cut from the Phalenopsis. Let dry and then glue to the body of the Koi.

8. To the necklace portion of the braided Midelino Reed add and glue some cross pieces of Midelino. These pieces will act as a support for the fish. The ends of the necklace need to be finished and closure attached. Lightly sand and use tack cloth to remove any dust and fibers. Spray paint the Midelino necklace copper color.

9. Spray paint the Koi in 24 Karat Design Master Spray Paint. Once the necklace and fish are dry, carefully glue the Koi fish onto the necklace.

10. Spray paint the necklace with a clear coat of Design Master for added protection.

Tools

Sharp Knife / Scissors
Tweezers
Natural Bristle Paint Brush
Sandpaper / Tack Cloth

Materials

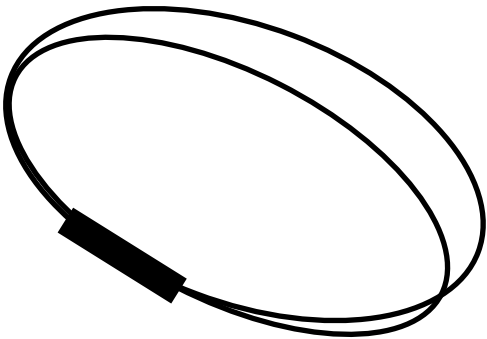
Hot Glue or White Glue
Acrylic Artist Paint (Blue) and
(Pearl White)
Thin Wire

Dried Plant Materials

Calamus rotang-Midelino Reed
Hemionitis arifolia-Heart Fern
3 Nelumbo nucifera-Lotus
Pisum sativum-Peas
Tillandsia xerographica-Air Plant

Technique

- 1. Cut 2 pieces of Midelino Reed into 10” pieces. Sand and use tack cloth to remove dust and fibers.
- 2. Wire the ends of the Midelino together to form an oval bracelet. The area of the black rectangle in the drawing below represents the wired area.



- 3. Add interesting shaped pieces of Apple Tree branches to the base of the design and wire in place.

- 4. Next take pieces of the Tillandsia xerographica - Air Plant. Glue on and divide the Midelino to create open spaces.
 - 5. With a sharp knife remove the tops off of the Lotus Heads. Sand smooth and dust with a tack cloth. Glue to the bracelet with hot glue or slower drying epoxy or white glue.
 - 6. Place Fern Leaves; glue and let dry.
 - 7. With a natural fiber watercolor brush, paint the bracelet with acrylic paint. There are many color choices available at any Art Store. Let dry. Apply subsequent layers as needed.
 - 8. Take the Pea seeds and paint them with a pearl luster paint to resemble natural pearls. Several coats will be needed.
 - 9. Apply the pearls to the bracelet. The bracelet may then be spray painted with a clear finish coat to enhance the luster of the paint.
- HINT: When choosing your plant materials for botanic arts be sure that they are dry. Be aware that some surfaces take the paint differently than others. Smooth surfaces, when painted with a gloss paint will be more reflective than a rough textured surface. Contrast can be achieved even when using the same paint color.



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

Flower Show: *ECHOES OF A RAINBOW, Honolulu, Hawaii,*
Class Title: *FACETS*
Bracelet no larger than 7” in circumference to be displayed on a black background.



Autumn is in the Air

The Decorated **WREATH**

Featuring Magnolia Leaf Designs

MaryEllen O'Brien

Photos & Drawings © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013
www.thedecoratedwreath.com

From laurel head pieces called "diadema," used by the ancient Greeks to denote power, status and wealth to metal head pieces, of precious stones and gold we now call crowns, the wreath has had a long history. "Commoners" adapted the wearing of laurel branches on their heads and replaced the laurel with sprigs of holly, evergreens and mistletoe. Eventually the head pieces found their way to the walls and doors of homes during early winter festivals and rituals. Today a wreath on an entry door is synonymous with modern Christmas traditions but is by no means limited to this single holiday. Wreaths are for every season and every holiday...On your front door or inside your home.

< Here magnolia leaves make a full, lush country style wreath that is perfect for any autumn holiday. The backsides of the magnolia with their rusty velvet appearance take command...making this perfect for a fall decor. Found mushrooms have been dried and added as well along with seed pods and millet. This is a handsome addition to any country door ...Happy Thanksgiving!



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

MAGNOLIA WREATH

Fresh Magnolia Leaves

Magnolia Seed Pods

Dried Strelitzia Leaves

Dried Fungi

Mini Lotus Seed Pods

Lichen Covered Branches

Pine Cones

Natural or Artificial Acorns

Broom Corn Heads



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

MAGNOLIA CENTERPIECE

Apple Tree Branches

Magnolia Leaves

Lotus Seed Pods

Ornamental Corn Standard and Mini

Artificial Pears and Grapes



Design by: MaryEllen O'Brien

MAGNOLIA SWAG

Apple Tree Branches

Magnolia Leaves

Dried Fungi

Dried Mini Lotus Pods

24" Green Mesh Fabric

6" Gold Ribbon

Artificial Fruit and Flowers

Leafing Around

Ideas for Leaf Manipulation - Effects on Magnolia

MaryEllen O'Brien

Photos © MaryEllen O'Brien 2013



ROLLED & WIRED EFFECT

Roll the Magnolia leaf around a wooden 3/4" - 1" dowel. While the leaf is still on the dowel, begin wrapping with decorative bullion wire or colorful anodized aluminum wire. Early, natural looks can be achieved with the natural brown paper covered bind wire. For something more contemporary... consider flat anodized aluminum wire. Check out other wire possibilities at your craft store or hardware store in the electrical department. When you are finished wrapping twist the ends together and trim. Pull off of dowel.



ROLLED & WIRED EFFECT

Here the same rolled effect leaves are packed into a clear glass container and dried flowers were added.

Another option would be to add water to the vase followed by a variety of stems. The flowers are supported by the tubes. Note the magnification of the twisted wire in the underwater design. Bright wires add interest in this design.





PLAITED EFFECT

Cut the leaf into strips on the diagonal. Begin by folding over one strip from one side followed by a strip on the opposite side. A small dab of glue may be used to secure the tabs. Finished leaf resembles a seed head. A bamboo skewer can be added as a stem. Cover with brown corsage tape wrap.





PARTIAL ROLL EFFECT

Roll each leaf half way and secure with a short plain steel pin. Place two or more leaves on top of each other and secure with a wire and a dab of glue to hold securely together. A bamboo skewer can be added to give height to the cluster. Cover the skewer with corsage wrap in brown or green.

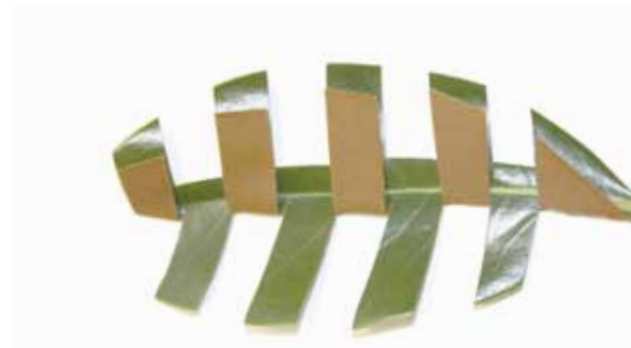




PRETEND PLAITING

Gently fold the leaf in-half lengthwise. Cut several diagonal slits into the leaf...as many as you desire. Cut a short slit (about .5 - .75in. perpendicular to the magnolia rib). Begin folding the top V-shape downward until you reach the last V. Tuck the end into the straight slit to finish.





DENTIL MOLDING EFFECT

Gently fold the Magnolia leaf in a lengthwise manner. Make evenly spaced perpendicular cuts. Fold over in whatever pattern you like. Secure the cut leaf with a dab of glue or UGlu.



JANUARY

23 – 26, 2014 - “Flora in Winter” at Worcester Art Museum and Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Worcester, MA

FEBRUARY

20-23, 2014 - “Spring Flower and Garden Show” hosted by The Rhode Island Horticultural Society at The Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence, RI 02903

20-23, 2014 - “33rd Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show” at the Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd. #400, Hartford, CT 06103

MARCH

1-9, 2014 – “ARTiculture” The Philadelphia International Flower Show Hosted by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia, PA, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, 12th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia 19107

12-16, 2014 – “Romance in the Garden” - The New England Flower Show Hosted by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Boston, MA, at the Seaport World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston, MA 02210

14 - 23, 2014 – 18th Annual “Canada Blooms”, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto, Canada. Canada Blooms is excited to announce that WILD will be the theme for the 2014 festival.

APRIL

4-6, 2014 – “Memphis Milano” The Memphis Flower Show hosted by: The Memphis Garden Club at the Dixon Art Gallery, 4339 Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38117

MAY

15-18, 2014 – “Inspirations – Urban Treasures” – A Celebration of Portland Parks hosted by: The Portland Garden Club, at The World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR

JUNE

18-22, 2014 – WAFA Ireland 2014, Dublin, Ireland. This spectacular flower show will feature amazing floral designs created by 600 floral artists from all 31 member countries of the World Association of Flower Arrangers.

27-29, 2014 – “Journey”, The Newport Flower Show Hosted by: The Preservation Society of Newport County at Rosecliff, 548 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI 02840



BUDDING
STORIES
FOR
OUR
NEXT
ISSUE

WINTER 2015

flowers



F L O W E R S H O W
flowers
Volume I
Number 2
Fall 2013

