LESSON
12

arranging a crepe bouquet with fresh greenery

NOTES

TOOLS & MATERIALS

YOU WILL NEED:

- ◯ **3 CREPE PAPER PEONY FLOWERS**
- ◯ **5-10 CREPE PAPER WILD ROSE STEMS**
- ◯ **5-10 STEMS OF FRESH GREENERY**
  (silver dollar eucalyptus used in the live class)
- ◯ **LOW VESSEL** *6.5 x 7 inches or 8 x 4.5 inches*
- ◯ **ANY OF THE FOLLOWING** *chicken wire, florist pillow (6" or 8"), 13 water tubes*
- ◯ **THIN WASHI TAPE** *or* **WATERPROOF FLORAL TAPE**
  (optional for the water tube method)
- ◯ **CLIPPERS OR SCISSORS** *to cut your live greenery*

CHOOSING A VESSEL

When creating a tabletop bouquet with fresh greenery, I start with a vessel that is shorter and with a wide opening to allow for both the live greenery and the crepe flower stems.

Consider the final size of your bouquet and choose a container that is at least half the height of your final piece. If you are adding water into the base for the greenery, be sure your container can hold water.

CHOOSING GREENERY

For the crepe paper flower and live greenery combination, look for stems that are stiff (often with shiny leaves) rather than soft stems as they will wilt quickly once cut.

Some good choices are:

- Eucalyptus
- Salal/Lemon Leaf
- Smilax
- Ruscus
- Myrtle
- Pittosporum
- Monstera, Palm, and Tea Leaves (tropicals)
- Most conifers (pine, spruce, cedar)

©2021 LIAGRIFFITH.COM

LESSON
12

arranging a crepe bouquet with fresh greenery

NOTES

KEEPING YOUR CREPE FLOWER STEMS DRY

It is important to keep your crepe paper flower stems dry since they are paper covered wire. If you have any concerns that your stems might come in contact with water, an extra precautionary step is to wrap and seal the ends with the waxed floral tape.

In this lesson I will demonstrate two methods to combine your fresh greens with the paper flowers and avoid the water with your stems.

CREATING A CAGE

One of the easiest ways to create a framework for your flower arrangement in a wide open top vessel is to use the cage method. You can make a custom cage for any size of container by using chicken wire to place inside your vessel, covering the opening with the wire. A very simple method is to use the premade plastic flower pillows that are used by florists. You can simply secure this pillow at the opening of your container with tape before you start your arrangement. Another DIY cage option is to use a thin tape to create a grid over your container opening. This is a great method to combine with water tubes.

ARRANGING WITH A CAGE

When working with live plants and flowers, a designer will begin each arrangement with a base of greenery. Remove all of the leaves off the stem that will be touching the water at the base of the vessel and any that prevent you from sliding the stems into the cage. Once your greenery is set, you are ready to start adding your crepe paper flowers. Bend the stems so that they not only keep from touching the water, but also add thickness to nest into the greenery bed. If you are placing a flower stem in horizontally, simply tuck the stem into the cage to secure.

©2021 LIAGRIFFITH.COM

LESSON
12

arranging a crepe bouquet with fresh greenery

NOTES

USING WATER TUBES

Though sealing the base of your stem with waxed floral tape can be helpful, the best method to ensure keeping water from your paper flower stems is to slide them into a floral water tube. These tubes are designed to fill with water for fresh flowers, but for our paper flowers we use them to keep water away from our stems. Some of the water tubes are too thick to slide through a premade cage, so for this method we recommend creating a DIY cage with tape.

TIPS FOR ARRANGING

Crepe paper flowers are perfect for learning how to arrange flowers. You can move them easily, bend their wired stems, and reuse them for many projects. Here are a few design principles to remember when you are practicing your arrangements.

FOCALS & FILLERS: In flower arranging there is often one focal flower, though in more advanced arrangements you can have more than one. For this arrangement we are using one focal which is the large and lush peony. Filler flowers are often small delicate blooms that support the focal flower and add detail and flow into the arrangement. I chose the wild rose to be our filler flower for this class.

RULE OF 3 or ODD NUMBERS: When learning any type of design, you will hear about using three items or odd numbers, and we have also talked about it a few times in this class. In this lesson I am demonstrating this design rule with three large peony flowers — and with my 10 rose stems, I demonstrate by using five stems or grouping them into an odd number count for the final look. However, the odd number rule can fall away after seven and is less important for filler flowers and greenery.

©2021 LIAGRIFFITH.COM

LESSON
12

arranging a crepe bouquet with fresh greenery

TRIANGLE or DOME SHAPE: A great arrangement to start you on your path to becoming an expert at flower arranging is the simple triangle or dome shape. The basic rule for this arrangement is the triangle or dome shape of the greens/flowers extends beyond the edges of your vessel, and the height is equal or more to the height of your vase without flowers.

PROPORTIONS & PLACEMENT: It is important to train your eye to see proportions and placement as you design. Use the basic rule above as a good starting point to learn good design. When placing your focal flowers, keep them central in your arrangement. When working with three focal flowers, a triangle arrangement is the most pleasing to the eye. Consider varying the space between the three peonies and add a "tip" to your triangle. As you add your filler flowers, use them to add to the flow of how your eyes might move across your arrangement.

homework

- ○ **WATCH** *Lesson 12*
- ○ **CREATE** *your peony and wild rose arrangement*

NOTES

©2021 LIAGRIFFITH.COM