

World Wide Pressed Flower Guild
Class for beginners in the art of pressed flowers

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Geometric shapes with flowers
by
Denise Tenzel



I was born and grew up in Paris or the near suburb; I now live in the redwood forest on the northern coast of California. From Paris, France to California, USA, this story would be fun to tell... But in this present and short biography, I will only extract the threads that lead me to pressed flower art. During my formal education, whether it took place in France or later in the USA many courses were devoted to art. While in High School, my art work was often time praised and preeminently displayed. In college, majoring in

literature, I followed a seminar taught by a professor from the Sorbonne, titled "lit. & paintings" it joined my two worlds, academics and arts. The amazing weather of California did the rest. So many days of sunshine augmented my love of gardening which allowed me to grow so many beautiful flowers. I had enough art background, the materials were in front of me, and a new passion was born. I started alone, (already so many years!) with books, friends and advice from one art teacher, a colleague. I was also lucky to quickly discover the WWPPFG. An amazing international on line organization, that teaches, sustains and make any press flower artist...flourish.



When I started to work with pressed flowers I wanted to preserve beautiful, fresh blooms, then magnificent bouquets, later baskets, vases, eventually landscapes it is only and accidentally that I discovered geometrical shapes...discovering them I could also see a great value by starting with this type of learning.

Geometrical shapes compels you to follow a specific pattern---lines, squares, circles etc--- this effort teaches to handle flowers, to become more precise in their placement, how to use glue, what type of glue.

It also makes you observe the various flowers shapes, colors and how to merge them together successfully.

Geometrical shapes are part of our culture our unconscious responds positively

Material list: Papers for backgrounds, ruler, tweezers, scissors, glue, petals, small flowers, leaves and tendrils.

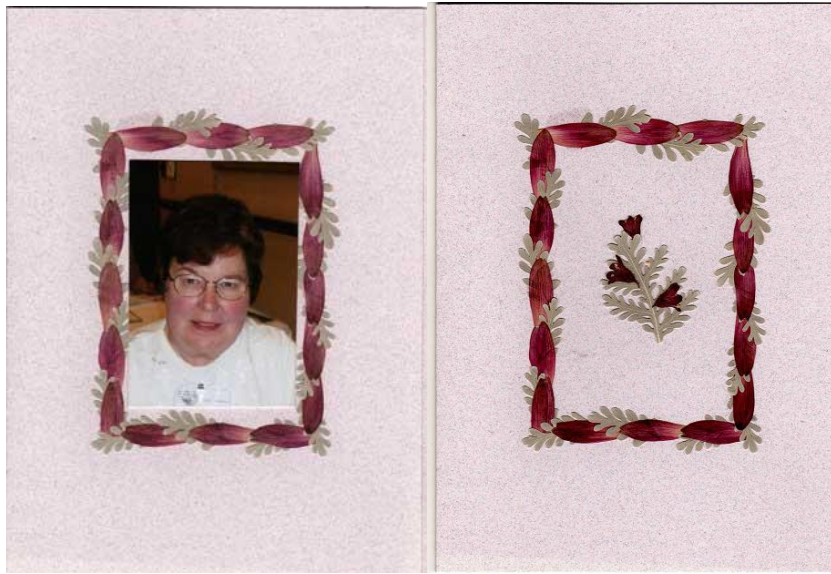
#1-- let's make straight and curved lines---I like to call this a "sampler", (it looks good framed too!) take a piece of paper --- water color weight--- about 10/11 inches by 5, with a pencil lightly draw vertical lines.

Look at the example; you can see what I did. Choose petals or flowers; line them very carefully without forgetting regular spacing, think of it especially when adding a new piece. Some flowers just fit together others have to be helped. To glue these I use very little glue on a tooth pick, and a flat tweezers for placement



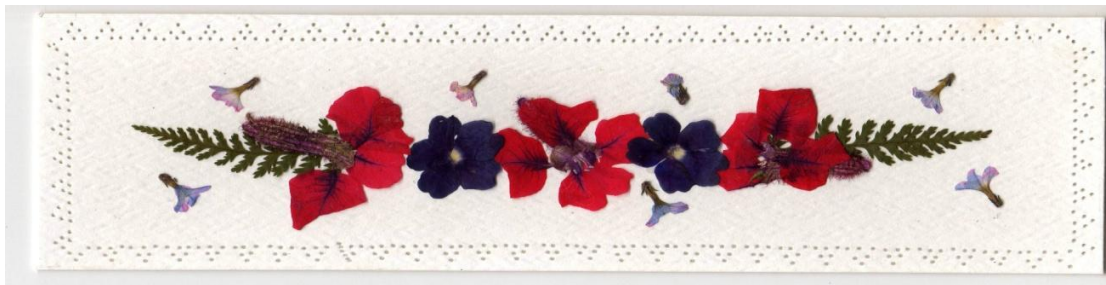
#2, With lines we can make squares, rectangles, etc... (don't forget to draw the shape with a pencil first) beside making shape we can also be more practical and make cards or book marks, small framed art work too. The corners are a bit more difficult—need to select the material before gluing and trying it out.

The first card is a simple flower frame in which you insert a picture. By the way, this is one of our members, and friend, Carol Sproul, during the 2008 conference!



The second card a very small bouquet has been added in the center, similar flowers, and similar colors.

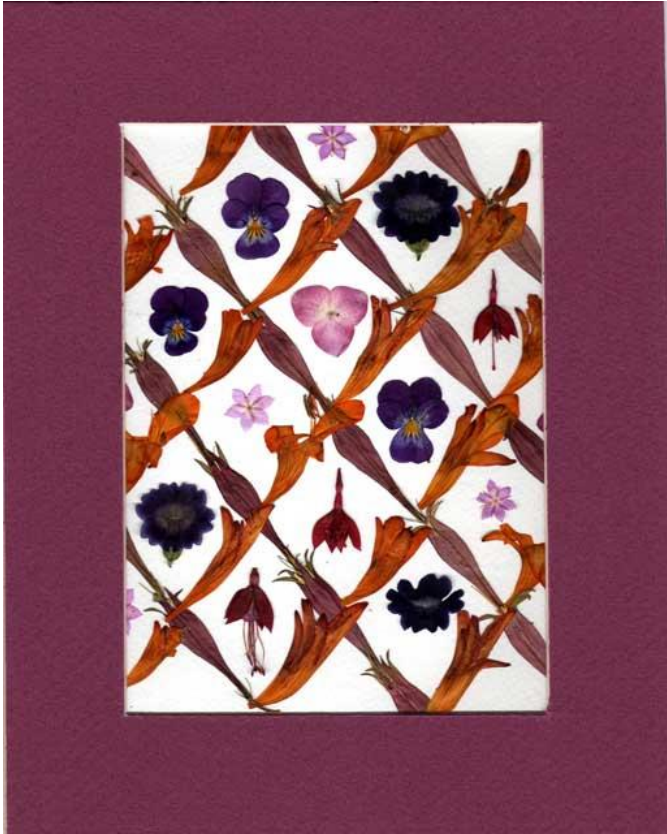
#3 A bookmark... made essentially by a line of flowers.



#5 curved lines make circles and a circle makes... a wreath, the junction of the two ends needs particular attention. The wreath on the left is made with many hydrangea flowers—as far as I know the only glue that does not discolor these flowers is the botanical glue---available from Denyse.



#6 lines together make shapes and shapes together give endless possibilities... the one below is like a tapestry. Don't forget to draw lines, as best as possible choose similar flowers, patience in the gluing!



#7 Now that we have explored, lines and shapes and put them together, let's add another geometrical concept, symmetry. Example below, it is made on a watercolor wash background. The flowers have to be moved many times in order to achieve the best symmetry possible; the flat tweezers are the best tools.



Hopefully you have enjoyed the exploration and construction of flowers lines & shapes and it will be helpful in your career as a pressed flower artist.