

Entering Floral Design

Whether entering a club show, GCA show, or GCA major show, here are some tips for success.

READ the schedule. **READ** the schedule. **READ** the schedule. Pay close attention to the GCA rules and Floral Design guidelines.

Sketch as you think.

Think in color and 3D; be mindful of background colors.

Note height/width restrictions and pedestal size in the schedule.

Studying other designs is great for inspiration and reference, but your design **MUST** be original.

Begin to practice.

Create a workspace using a pedestal or table using the same dimensions detailed in the schedule.

Decide on your container or armature.

Work through any necessary water mechanics.

Think about alternatives to floral foam.

Engineer your structure soundly; flowers become much heavier than you think.

Begin thinking of pedestal top treatment (wood, Lucite, paper, mat board, etc.)

Decide on a statement of intent if using one.

Begin shopping and researching flowers and sources.

Always check availability of seasonal flowers.

Have alternate flowers in mind.

Study the color wheel.

Take photographs as you work / this helps you see flaws.

Use a checklist for the [Principles and Elements of Design](#).

Take a long view from all sides.

Consider packing/shipping needs and transportation.

Ask the consultant about arrangements for return of your pieces.

Print statement of intent card.

Pack your floral bag with all necessary tools and supplies. Include clean up materials.

Fill out your [entry card](#).

Check the spelling of both botanical and common names on your entry card.

Make a duplicate card.

Note times exhibitors may begin and finish on the day of the show.

Don't hog space.

Be neat and tidy, especially in a museum.

Give yourself plenty of time in case of emergency.