

Contemporary Floral Design Tips



There are many differences between Contemporary and Traditional Floral Design. Listed below are only a few of these differences, but are important for us to become familiar with while learning this method of mastering floral arranging.

We must break away from strict rules of traditional design – get out of our comfort zone.

- ✓ Contemporary is a legitimate art form.
- ✓ Few rules and no set patterns
- ✓ Usually bold in colour, form and size
- ✓ Uses limited plant material and space in design is important (not crowded)
- ✓ Containers often have more than one opening but it is not necessary to use them all.
- ✓ Does not matter if mechanics show e.g. water tubes, binding wires etc. They become part of the design but should appear to belong.
- ✓ Use of structures is popular – can use bamboo, branches, Plexiglas, Styrofoam, mesh, lumber, etc.
- ✓ Flowers and leaves can be manipulated; flowers curved on wires, leaves can be pleated or cut down.
- ✓ Plant material sometimes arranged in groups. This is called CLUSTERING.
- ✓ There can be more than one point of interest
- ✓ Rhythm – your eye should follow through the design
- ✓ GROUPING – plant material grouped by colour, texture or shape
- ✓ CONTAINERS – try to find unusual ones; they become part of the design
- ✓ MANIPULATION – stems of flowers can be curved or wired; leaves may be pleated or cut down
- ✓ CLUSTERING – grouping together of one type of material to create a mass, block, or cluster. There may be a noticeable lack of space within these designs.

Novice members are most welcome to enter the contemporary classes as well. Please mark NOVICE on your entry tickets. These titles are marked with a rec **"C"**. We are all beginners with the contemporary design and hopefully this explanation page will be helpful to us all.