

Ikebana: The Art of Flower Arrangement
with DiAE Teaching Artist Delona Seserman



Overview:

You will create a paper flower arrangement using paper and collage materials.

DO YOU KNOW...

- Ikebana (生け花, 活け花, "arranging flowers" or "making flowers alive") is the Japanese art of flower arrangement. It is also known as Kadō (華道, "way of flowers"). The tradition dates back to the 7th century when floral offerings were made at altars. Later, they were placed in the tokonoma (alcove) of a home.
- Ikebana uses a wide array of materials including blooming flowers, branches, stems, leaves and mosses.
- Ikebana is not just used in Japanese culture as decoration, but also as an art and discipline leading to self-awareness.
- Ikebana uses asymmetric balance which means that two halves of something don't match or are unequal. (*This is different from symmetric balance where both halves of something are equal.*)

Things to think about:

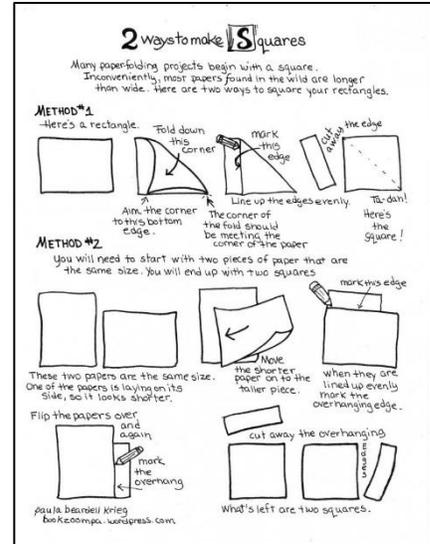
- How will you select your colors to make an attractive arrangement?
- What are some of the interesting shapes you can make for your flower petals?
- How will you arrange the flowers to create something beautiful?
- Where will you place your final arrangement in your home?
- Symmetry vs. asymmetry- What do you notice in nature? Are flowers symmetrical or asymmetrical?
- Is your hair style symmetrical or asymmetrical?

Supplies Included:

- Paper cup with Styrofoam in base of cup
- Large colored paper
- Small square paper with flower template
- Chenille sticks (pipe cleaners)

Directions:

1. Make some squares: See directions on the right for two different ways to make a square from a rectangle.
2. Make your petals: You should have two different sizes of squares in various colors. These will be the basis for your flower petals. Place one of the squares in half, and then fold it in half again. You should end up with a smaller square. Make a little dot in the corner of your square where the fold is. This dot will be the center of your flower. Carefully tear the corners and around the edges EXCEPT the corner with the dot. When you unfold your paper, you'll have your first petal. Continue this process with different colors of paper and different sizes for your starting squares.
3. Layer your petals onto a stem: Select one or two petals that you might like to layer together. Use one of the pipe cleaners to gently poke a hole through the center of the petals. You can twist the pipe cleaner into a small ball to hold the petals in place.
4. Plant your flower: Poke the stem of your flower into the Styrofoam ball base in the cup. If you'd like for the flower to have a shorter stem, you can use scissors to cut it, or you can fold your pipe cleaner to shorten it.
5. Complete your arrangement: Repeat the process of making petals, placing them on stems, and planting the stems into the ball base. You can twist and shape the stems to the perfect placement of your ikebana.



Scan here for a video of DiAE Teaching Artist Delona Seserman demonstrating the project, along with links to additional resources or please visit our website: <https://diae.org/resources/diae-artist-in-your-residence/>.

We'd love to see your ikebana. Please share a photo of your work and tag us!



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This project is made possible with support from Delaware Community Foundation and our partners at the Community Education Building. DiAE is supported, in part, by a grant from [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a state agency, in partnership with the [National Endowment for the Arts](#). The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [DelawareScene.Com](#)

