

PAPER FLOWERS

Have you ever painted or drawn a picture of a flower?

Have you ever helped to plant a garden?

Does nature inspire you?



Nell Blaine, 1980, Oil on canvas, Accession Number 2714, Gift of Authur W. Cohen, 1990

NELL BLAINE

Nell Blaine (1922 – 1996), a widely respected painter, first came to Gloucester in 1943. By the mid-1950s when she began staying in the area on a regular basis, she was already a well-established New York artist. In 1974, Blaine purchased a house in East Gloucester which served as her summer residence and studio for the next 22 years. She had a love for her garden at her home in East Gloucester and painted many landscapes and still lives full of color and excitement that capture the essence of summer on Cape Ann. Use Nell Blaine's floral paintings to inspire paper flowers!

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Painted papers
- Watercolors
- Paint brush
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Liquid glue

STEP ONE

To begin you will create painted papers. To do so all you need is a couple pieces of paper and watercolors. Choose any colors that you would like and cover each sheet with bright vibrant colors, front and back. You will be using these papers to create your flowers.



STEP TWO

Once your painted papers are dry, draw flower petals to fill the paper. Make sure to draw many different sizes of petals. Save some painted paper for another type of paper flower that you will create later. Cut out all the petals that you outlined on your painted papers. Next cut out a circle of paper to use as a base.



STEP THREE

Then at the thin side of each petal fold a small tab. This tab is where you will put glue to secure each petal to the base. Next, curl your petals by gently wrapping the wide end of each petal around your pencil as shown in the second photo.



STEP FOUR

Once all the petals are curled secure them to the base starting with your biggest petals working from the outside of your base to the inside, where you will secure your smallest petals.



STEP FIVE

Use scraps from cutting out your petals to create the inside section of your flower.

Use your pencil to curl the pieces, fold a tab and glue them to the base. Use the end of your pencil to help secure one piece to another in small spaces that you may not be able to fit your fingers into as shown in the second picture.



STEP SIX

Now let's create a second type of paper flower so your bouquet can have some variety! Start by cutting your painted paper into three different shapes: stems, leaves, and petals. For your petals you can outline and cut out the shapes like you did for the previous flower or you can tear them like shown in the picture.



STEP SEVEN

Begin to glue together flowers starting with the stems and the leaves. Then, just like you did for the first flower, start with the biggest petals and begin gluing them in a circular shape. As your work your ways towards the center use smaller and smaller petals. Choose a final piece for the center of your flower, glue it down, and then glue the flower to the stem.



STEP EIGHT

Create as many flowers as you can from your painted papers to make a beautiful bouquet!

