

Rittners School of Floral Design

*Rittners School Of Floral Design
In Boston Presents.....*

**Floral Designing
Is Fun!!!**



Rittners School of Floral Design



Hi. Welcome to the Rittners Floral School in Boston, MA.

It is a pleasure welcoming you to this distance education lesson, **“Floral Designing is Fun!!”**

Floral Design is really fun to do. It allows us to bring a touch of nature into our homes & work places.

It is an art form that enhances our enjoyment of the natural media of flowers, and you can't beat that!!

Our lives are often so hectic.....Floral

art can give us a chance to take a breather, engage another part of our brain and help us reduce stress in our lives....

It allows us to tap into our natural creativity, to play a little bit and to have some well deserved fun!!! But our enjoyment of floral designing is certainly enhanced when we know what we are doing, and that's where this lesson can help!!!

In this online lesson you are going to learn how to make six floral designs.

We are going to show you how to create these designs step-by-step, and we will illustrate the design construction with very detailed photographs so that you will feel very comfortable with the design instruction....



The neat thing about these lessons is that they are almost like having us give floral instruction in your home or flower shop. (But you don't even have to offer us refreshments!)

We have deliberately varied the style & contents of the designs presented for your interest and enjoyment. **The first couple are very easy. The last several are more complex.....**

The layout, appearance and approach that you will find on the following pages is exactly the same as in the other Distance Education Online pdf Floral Design Lessons that our school offers for sale.....The subject and level

of complexity of the lessons for sale varies per lesson.

We really hope you enjoy learning, and doing these designs So here goes:

Arrangement 1

Gerbera Design-Grab & Throw

What You Will Need

- Gerbera (approx. 6)
- Cylinder Glass (we used a five inch piece)



Of all the designs that we will be teaching you today our first design is the easiest to make...

In fact, it is so easy that you will spend more time going to your local flower outlet and choosing your flowers then you will spend actually making the design.....

We call this kind of arrangement the “grab and throw” style of floral art!!!

Why is that?



Because all you have to do is grab a cluster of flowers in your hand.....and throw it into a vase!!!

Well not exactly throw it in. We suggest that you **place it gently** into the base.....But the process of making a design like this **is soooooo easy!!!** Anyone can do it and get wonderful results!!

Isn't this a beautiful design? All we did was to take a grouping of these incredible gerbera in one hand and gently place them into a glass container with water. We first measured a single stem, and cut it so that the flower head would lean over the edge of the container when placed at a slight angle. Then after cutting all of the stems, we placed them into the glass container all at once. No muss. No fuss.

Arrangement 2 Grab & Throw-More Complex

What You Will Need

- Tulips (approx. 15-20)
- Miniature Sunflowers (4-5)
- Cylinder Glass (6-7")



OK. That last design was pretty easy, wasn't it?

See.... You don't have to be an "artist-e" to be able to create some pretty awesome floral designs! You just need the right training, and that's where we come in!

So do you feel motivated to try another one? Good. We thought you would!

This second design will also feature some flowers in water based media...

Now one comment that should be made about any designing in water...Floral industry protocol usually suggests adding floral preservative to your arrangements in water.....You may buy some floral preservative from a floral outlet and add it to the water to help keep the flowers alive longer. Read and follow the instructions. You can still make these designs without preservative, but helping the flowers last a little longer is a nice thing to do. And always keep these things away from kids and pets.



Let's start with the same kind of glass cylindrical container. If you have one like this fine, if not you can always use a glass cube, a rectangle or even a ginger jar. Just about any glass vase will work fine with this arrangement.

Take some of your tulips and simply lean them against the side of the container.....

Continue to place them at an angle along the side of the base, placing flowers against flowers that have already been placed. Don't fuss about where the stems go. Just place a lot of flowers of one kind all up against each other!

Alternatively, depending upon your comfort level, you could pick up the tulips all at once in a bunch and drop them in place against the side of the container. We used around 15-20 flowers. Your numbers of flowers may vary depending upon the size of your flowers and the size of your container.





Now let's add a second flower. In this case we are using some miniature sunflowers. They are bright and colorful.

Take a handful and gently drop them into the other side of the container!

See? "Grab and throw technique" once again....

No. It doesn't matter if the design is perfectly moundy or not. Sometimes a little asymmetry is more visually interesting....We don't mind if the miniature sunflowers angle out a little wildly.

The overall result is a bright and cheerful design that would work nicely in your kitchen or kitchenette, or possibly at a large work station.

The major difference in technique between this design and the first one with the gerbera is that we used a slightly larger container here, (6-7") and mixed two kinds of flowers in this design instead of one as with the gerbera. But it is still "Grab & Throw."



Arrangement 3-- Tulips & Roses Quick & Easy

What You Will Need

- Tulips (approx. 15-20)
- Roses (3-4)
- Cylinder Glass (6-7")



Ok. Now let's play with this a little..... Let's take the same tulips and place with them a little differently.....This will be a little more complex than "grab and throw." Let's angle the tulips against the glassware as shown above..... Add tulips from the left towards the right following the circle defined by the glassware. (To do this one you really should use a round or cylindrical container for the best results!)



Go all the way around the container to create a circle of flowers!!

We used approximately fifteen to seventeen tulips here. Once again the number of flowers that you need will depend upon the size of your container and how developed (open) your flowers actually are.....





Now here is a really neat step...Drop a few roses into the center and.....

Voila!!!!

A beautiful design of tulips and roses in a water base.....

Quick.

Very Easy.....

Value laden.....

Showy.....

That's the Rittner Floral School way!!!



Arrangement 4 Fun With Cranberries--

What You Will Need

- Cranberries
- Rose
- Cube or Rectangular Glass (we used a 4x4x4 piece)
- Sisal



Here is another quick and easy idea. Part of the novelty of this design is the cranberries. Massachusetts, the state where our school is located, is one of the major sources of cranberries in the United States. So naturally we want to play with this wonderful native product. Besides being good for you, they look pretty.

Simply take some glassware, and fill it with cranberries. Add water. The cranberries are actually magnified because of the water!

Stick a single rose into the cranberry/water mix..... (The cranberries here are not to be eaten when they are used as part of a floral design!)



We could leave this design with simply the single rose. It works nicely.....But let's make it just a bit more more complex.....

We found this sisal at our floral wholesale outlet.... Adding a little red sisal around the rose at the top of this arrangement makes the design a bit wilder and visually more complex.....Just place it loosely around the rose.

I like the effect of the sisal. Alternatives could be spanish moss, straw, etc.

This cute little design would work well as a substitute for bud vases on your kitchenette, or at your workstation. It is also a great idea for parties and functions. I could see two or three of these clustered



on a table, or perhaps a row of these going down the center of a table.....

Arrangement 5 Fun With Cranberries-- More Complex

What You Will Need

- Cranberries
- Gerbera (two)
- Roses (two)
- Tulips (five)
- Cube or Rectangular Glass (we used a 4x4x4 piece)



Let's start the same way we did the last one.....a single rose placed into a cube that contains water and cranberries.....

But let's add a bit more than just sisal!!!!



Place a second rose into the container.....

We could stop here.....But wait.....there's mooooorrrrrrrreeeee



Place two gerbera.....

One on one side of the two roses.....

The other gerbera goes on the side facing away from us.....

Notice that we are making these cranberry designs with the corner of the glassware facing us..... towards the front. This is done deliberately..It gives a a little different effect does it not?

Design tip: Don't be afraid to angle or change the angle of viewing of your containers for interesting visual effects.





To complete the design, let's add five tulips. One tulip goes into the center. The other four are placed into the four corners of the design.... The overall effect is quite lavish and rich..... Yet we only used nine flowers total to come up with the effect.

Once again, this design could be used for everyday use in your living room or perhaps in your kitchen or dining room. Because it is viewed all the way around it could be used quite nicely as a table centerpiece.....A number of these could be placed down the center of a long table...

More elaborate, yet still quite easy for you to do!!! Enjoy this one!!!

Arrangement 6

Fun With Tropical Flowers

What You Will Need

- Heliconia
- Heliconia (Psittacorum-5 stems)
- Ginger (four)
- Miniature sunflowers (three)
- Lotus pods (two)
- Container
- Sheet moss
- Curly willow
- Foam



OK. By now you can see that floral designing need not be intimidating or difficult.....I think that you will really find that the last design in this lesson is also an interesting one.....We are going to teach you how to make a vase arrangement using exotic materials in foam (rather than in water).....

For the beginner these designs may seem scary...**But they are really quite easy to make.....**In fact, you can't go wrong with exotics. The flowers themselves are impressive.

Design Tip: Many pros love making exotic designs because they really aren't all that difficult to make, and they usually make a big show!! People are impressed with these things even if some of the flowers themselves look a little kinky!



As with any design we start with a container. You can use just about any container for this design. The primary consideration is that it is large enough to accommodate large exotic flowers. This particular base measures six and a half inches tall, eight inches across and eight inches deep.

You may choose to use ceramic, opaque glass, metal or even a

basket. Just make sure your container does not leak. If using wicker, place a plastic container inside of the wicker basket.....

Use small little random scraps of foam to fill the container almost to the top. If you don't have scraps, cut a block of floral foam into smaller random sized pieces and use those to fill the container. **Securely wedge one larger piece of foam to fit into the top or across the top of the container. Your foam should be higher than the container by two or three inches.**

To cover the mechanics (the foam) take some moss (sheet moss in this case), place it in small pieces over the top of the foam and secure it with hair pins (little **U** shaped pieces of wire that you can make yourself) or pins.



Let's create a focal point, or point of interest, in this design. To do this we are going to place a couple of dried lotus pods into the front section as shown.

Dried lotus pods have been used for many years by floral designers. They are available in many colors. We've put some glue on the pods and then sprinkled glitter to give a glitzy effect.

The glue/glitter is optional. Use or not depending upon your tastes.



Similarly, if you can't find lotus pods, any dried pods could be used as a substitute.



I think you can see why many designers like exotic flowers. One stem of heliconia and look how tall this design becomes.... Exotics have a very commanding presence.



Ginger on the left side and a psittacorum heliconia on the right side, along with the first heliconia in the center rear of the foam, create the overall shape or boundary of this arrangement. Just poke the stems into the foam! Push them far enough into the foam for them to feel sturdy. If you find that the moss seems to be causing you problems when inserting your stems, you can always hold off adding the moss until the very end of the designing.



Ginger is a striking flower. We often bring it in to our school in both red and also in pink. Let's place two more stems over towards the left side of this arrangement. Notice that we have the ginger flowers facing different directions.

Design Tip: Consider where the heads of your flowers are facing. By having flowers facing different directions we can create a less rigid and more natural feeling to our designs...

It is hard to tell from this photograph, but this design is rather large. It is close to three feet tall, not at all unusual when designing with exotic flowers that have fairly long stems to begin with!



After placing the two ginger to the left side of the arrangement, let's put a single ginger over towards the right side of the design.

We haven't really gone into detail as to the shape up to now, but I think you can see that this design is shaped like a triangle.....

The triangle is defined by our exotics, yet is certainly a rather open triangle characterized by lots of space in between the flowers and a total absence of foliage.... (This is not a value judgement, simply a description of what is developing.....) The overall result is somewhat minimalist when compared to classic floral art.....





The outside of the design has been clearly established, but with the exception of the lotus pods in the focal region of the arrangement, there is little else going on in the interior of the design.....

Let's remedy that.....

Start placing more of the psittacorum heliconia.

Let's create a line at a slight angle. Notice the two placed between the center heliconia and the ginger to the right....





Now we have a line of four psittacorum drawing our eyes from the top of the design right down to the focal region...Notice we vary the direction that the flowers face to create visual interest.....It's pretty, and the yellow/orange of the psittacorum in the center of the arrangement unifies nicely with the psittacorum that angles out to the right side....

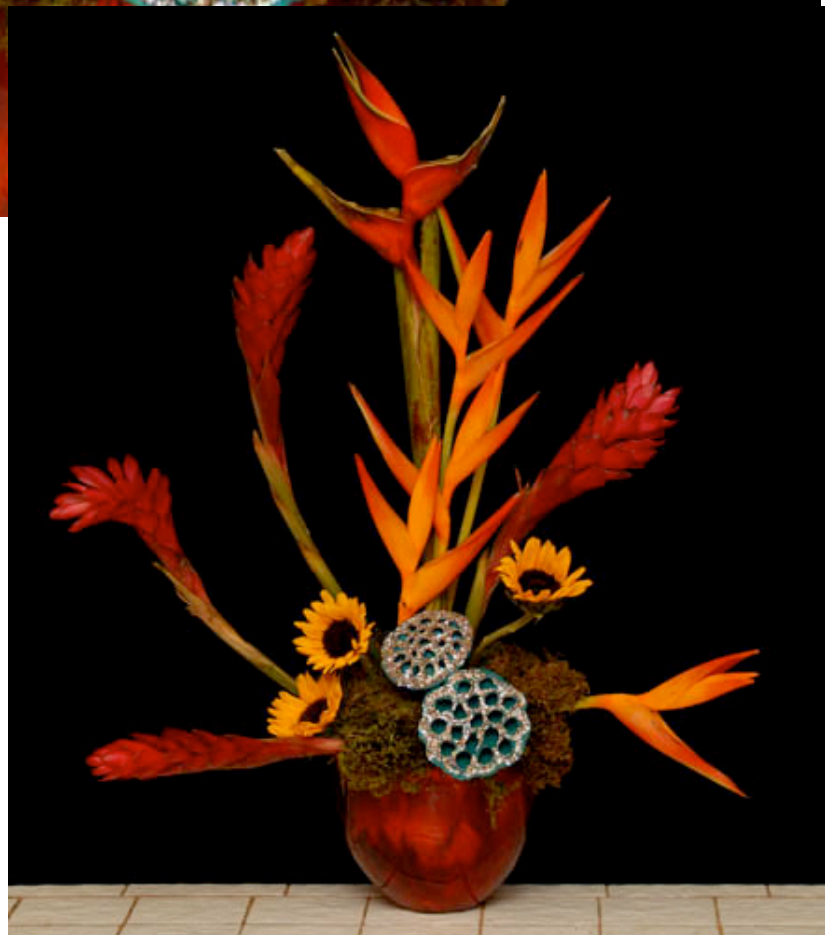


The center of the arrangement needs more.....

Miniature sunflowers will do the trick.

Place three miniature sunflowers in towards the center of the arrangement as shown.....

They really do make a difference don't they?





Here is a large view of the arrangement.... It's big, bright and impressive. We could stop at this point, but let's play with this design a bit more.....



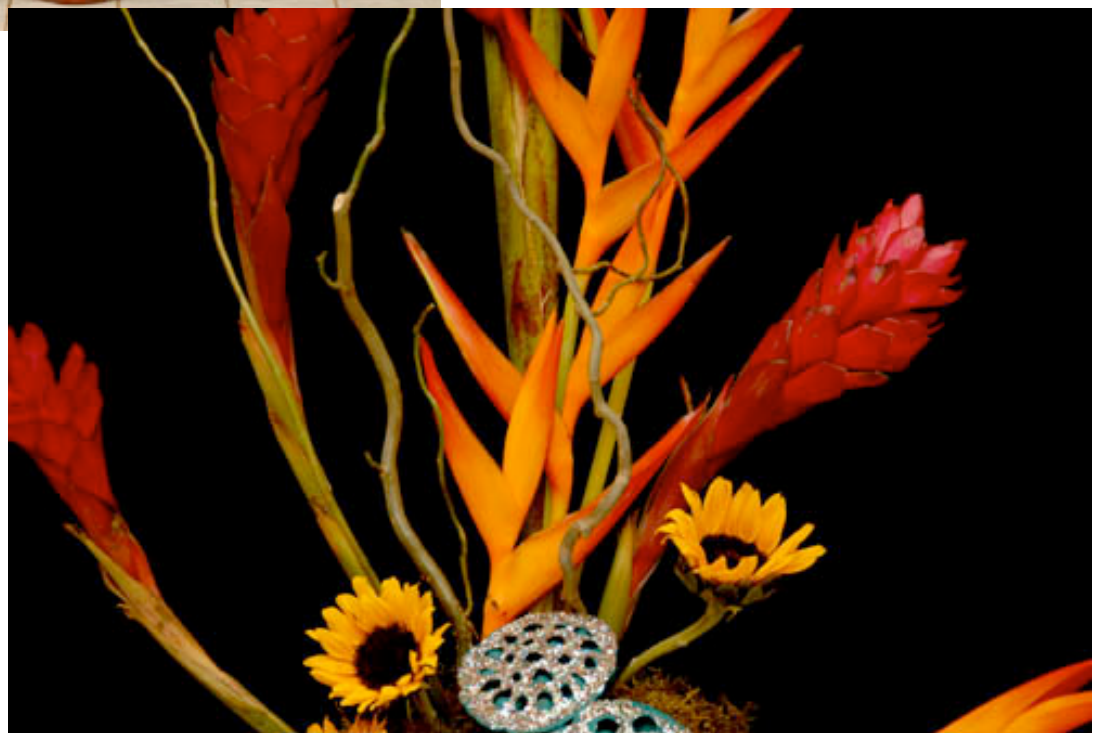
There's one more step that we can do that will add even more interest to the arrangement.

Can you see it?

Yes. That's right..... The use of branchy stuff, or more specifically, curly willow.

This stuff is a favorite of many designers..... It makes an otherwise very rigid design feel less formal and more relaxed.....

Design Tip: You can never go wrong adding curly willow or other branches to an arrangement. It gives a wild and untamed kind of look!



What do you think?

Pretty cool, isn't it?





This design gives a very upscale and prestige look. It could be used for a wide range of applications.

It would be quite appropriate in an entry hall of a building.

It could be used in the reception area of a business.

It would easily fill a large bay window of a home.....

Although it could be used at any time of the year the colors are uniquely fall, and so I could see this being used as part of decorations for Halloween or Thanksgiving.....

It would work quite nicely as a decoration in a very modern/contemporary home or setting.

I would love to see this one in some homes as a mantle decoration.....

And let's not forget this one as a possibility for Dad on Fathers Day.....



Wow.. Look at how much ground we have covered... and in only one lesson!

Thank you for taking this online floral design lesson. We hope that you enjoyed it. We really had fun presenting it to you!

And that is the whole point of this lesson...

To show you that learning floral designing can be lots of fun, especially when taught by the experts at Rittners School of Floral Design.....

This lesson also hopefully gave you a general idea of what **Rittners Floral School Online Distance Floral Design Lessons** are like.

The numbers of designs presented in each of our distance education lessons varies. Some lessons present only one design in detail. Others have two, three or even more designs.... This is clearly noted in the lesson descriptions.

The complexity of the lessons vary. Some lessons are easier. Others more difficult. We make sure that we indicate if any prior knowledge is necessary in the lesson descriptions.

The contents vary as well. Some of these lessons present designing in water. Others present foam based designs..... Some of our lessons present vase arrangements. Still others present bridal designs. Some of the arrangements can be used for a wide range of possibilities. Others are geared towards very specific holidays..... Some of these lessons present very specific approaches or techniques.....Some are more classical in style. Others are a little more “way out.”

Our [Online Catalog](#), and also [Catalog of Distance Floral Design Lessons in pdf form](#), (both of which are found on our web site) give descriptions of each of the lessons that are currently available. Please check out:

<http://floralschool.com/Distanceeducationstartpage.htm>

Regardless of what lessons you buy, the approach and the format that you enjoyed here, a pdf e-book containing lots of photographs and step-by-step instruction is a constant. And at Rittners we take pride in providing the best possible value that we can....

Clearly, thousands of hours in development time have been spent for your benefit.....

You benefit buying lessons from a **well established school of floral art that has been in existence for over sixty years.**

At Rittners Floral School in Boston we provide floral design instruction that includes a wide range of different styles and techniques.

Folks attend Rittners Floral School from all over the US as well as abroad, because we are **great floral designers**, and just as importantly **because we are outstanding teachers!!** All of that knowledge and experience is evident in these lessons.....

This is but one sample distance education lesson...**Think of how much more you will learn from the many others that we have for sale, or by actually taking one of our hands-on diploma courses at our school.....**

Thanks again for joining us today.....Enjoy your floral art lessons and above all.....Have fun!



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