

# Entering an Artistic Design in a GCV Flower Show

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## Artistic Design Entry Rules

1. The Schedule is known as “The Law of the Show.” Parameters for exhibit classes, photographs, submission dates, awards, and other important details are specified in the Schedule.
2. If you are a “Mentor,” please consider inviting a Novice to work with you to exhibit in the show.
3. Inter Club class arrangements are presented in the name of the Garden Club of Virginia member club. A single club member or a team of club members may prepare the Inter Club exhibit for the club.
4. For Individual/Team classes, a single individual, or two persons working together, or a mentor-novice team working together, may execute each entry unless otherwise specified by the Schedule.
5. An exhibitor(s) may enter as many classes as desired but only one entry per class. Every effort will be made to accommodate the first choice of registrants. If a class is full, a waiting list will be maintained and the registrant notified if a space becomes available. In the case of a person desiring to enter two different classes, the choice of the second class will be assigned, if possible, once first choices are completed.
6. Designs will be judged according to the GCV Principles & Elements of Design, found on the GCV website: [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org). Creativity, distinction, conformance to and interpretation of the class and Schedule are important.
7. Flowers of the theme show must predominate in all designs, e.g., daffodil, lily, rose, unless otherwise specified in the Schedule.
8. Plants on the Endangered Species list may be used only if grown in the exhibitor’s garden and should be noted on the plant material card.
9. The use of commercially grown flowers is discouraged. Seasonal flowers are preferred.
10. All designs should include some fresh plant materials, except in Botanical Arts classes.
11. Exhibitors must ensure the freshness of their arrangements for the duration of a “live” flower show.
12. Artificial flowers, foliage, and fruit are not permitted.
13. Treating fresh plant material by application of substances such as paints, dyes, etc. is not permitted.
14. Plants may be clipped, stripped, bent, or otherwise manipulated.
15. Living creatures are not permitted.
16. The following are permitted, unless prohibited by the schedule:
  - a. Accessories
  - b. Bases
  - c. Contrived flowers and/or forms made of fresh or dried plant material
  - d. Cut fruit or vegetables sealed in some manner to discourage insects
  - e. Objects that add interest when tastefully used, e.g., nests, feathers, coral, sponges, sea
  - f. fans, starfish, antlers, etc.
  - g. Container-grown plants growing in soil as part of Pot-et-Fleur or other appropriate classes
  - h. Dried and/or treated plant material
  - i. Drapery
  - j. Statements of Intent (25 words or fewer)
17. Dimensions of exhibits will be specified in the Schedule.

In a “live” flower show, no part of an arrangement placed on a pedestal may extend horizontally more than 6" on left or right of the pedestal, regardless of the position it is placed in on the pedestal.

18. There are several types of backdrops used in the flower shows. None may be used on a pedestal. No flower material may touch the sides, back or roof if present.
  - a. A backboard is a two-dimensional surface against which an arrangement is to be seen.
  - b. A trifold is similar to a backboard, and the above descriptions apply, but wings are attached to both sides. These may be opened at an angle or placed at right angles to the back.
  - c. A niche is constructed with a back, roof and fixed sides. The dimensions of the structure are provided in the Schedule.

In a “live” flower show, backdrop dimensions will be shared in the Schedule and the exhibit will be judged in proportion to the size of the backdrop.

In a virtual flower show, exhibits are displayed and photographed in front of a backdrop of the exhibitor’s choice of color, unless otherwise specified in the Schedule. The exhibit should fill the frame in the photograph and fit within the backdrop; the entire backdrop, however, need not be shown in the photograph.

19. Refer to Traditional Floral Styles and Designs and Contemporary Floral Styles and Designs for design guidelines.
20. A Statement of Intent, of 25 words or fewer, may be included in the Schedule for exhibits in any or all classes.
21. For maximum participation flexibility, when classes are filled a Waiting List will be maintained, and the Artistic Design Committee may during registration adjust the number of entries within a division, class, or classes.

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## Artistic Design Entry Procedures

1. All artistic entries must be pre-registered online at [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org) and confirmed by the show's designated Artistic Design Registrar. The exhibitor must confirm the information on the exhibit card (in a "live" show available at the Registration Desk and in a "virtual" show emailed to the exhibitor following registration) including name(s), address(es) GCV membership, Novice, and Mentor-Novice status.
  - a. A Novice is one who has not won a Blue Ribbon, A GCV Award in a GCV Flower Show, or is actively enrolled in the GCV Judging Program. A Student Judge in the GCV Judging Program remains a Novice until winning a Blue Ribbon or a GCV Award in a GCV Flower Show.
  - b. A Mentor is one who has won a Blue Ribbon, a GCV Award in a GCV Flower Show, or is or has been a fully-accredited Judge in the GCV Judging Program.
  - c. Mentor-Novice partners should check the appropriate box on the exhibit card.
2. If you are a Mentor, please consider inviting a Novice to work with you to exhibit in the show.
3. For questions concerning the Artistic Design Schedule, please contact the Class Consultant, the Artistic Design Chairman, and/or the Artistic Design Flower Show Coordinator(s) listed in the flower show Schedule, published online during registration at [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org).
4. To prevent the spread of Boxwood blight, Boxwood is not allowed in a GCV flower show.
5. In a "live" show,
  - a. Parameters for exhibit classes, photographs, submission dates, awards, and other important details are specified in the Schedule.
  - b. Please check in at Registration desk upon arrival at the show.
  - c. GCV exhibitor entry cards will be filled out completely, both top and bottom portions, by the Registrar and given to the exhibitor(s) at the Registration desk.
  - d. Please confirm the name(s) and address(es) on both portions and indicate on the entry GCV membership, Novice status, Mentor-Novice team partnership status.
  - e. Make arrangements for Container Return upon arrival. All containers and accessories must be plainly marked with the exhibitor's name and address. Instructions for shipping should be made and a fee paid if the container is not to be claimed at the end of the show. The use of containers with a value greater than \$200 is discouraged.
  - f. Check the show Schedule regarding whether or not arranging is permitted on the showroom floor.
  - g. Upon completion of the design, complete a 3x5 card listing floral material, noting "G" for garden grown or "F" for florist found. A Pot-et-Fleur must include "R" for rooted material or "C" for cut material.
  - h. Complete the Statement of Intent if included in the Schedule and display with the exhibit.
  - i. Notify a member of the Passing Committee when an exhibit is ready to be passed. The Passing Committee will review all exhibits for confirmation of compliance with the show Schedule. Exhibits that do not meet the Schedule requirements may be disqualified in consultation with the GCV Artistic Design Chairman and the GCV Judging exhibitor(s). If an exhibit is subject to disqualification, every effort will be made to notify the exhibitor(s) and if time permits give an opportunity to rectify the problem. Once an exhibit is passed, it will be judged.
  - j. The exhibitor(s) will remain in the exhibit area until the exhibit is passed. Exhibitors are asked to please leave the showroom floor immediately after their arrangement has been passed.
  - k. Except for watering and/or necessary maintenance, the exhibitor may not touch the exhibit after it is passed.

- l. Exhibitors are urged to show caution when placing their arrangements and when viewing the show. As a courtesy to other exhibitors, they must stay a safe distance from neighboring arrangements.
  - m. Following judging, ribbons and Special Awards will be placed and presented at an awards ceremony. Silver perpetual trophies will be conferred and winners may take them home to enjoy. Following the period of time specified, silver trophy awards should be returned by exhibitors to the Kent Valentine House. Please do not return silver trophy awards by mail.
6. In a virtual show,
- a. Parameters for exhibit classes, photographs, submission dates, awards, and other important details are specified in the Schedule.
  - b. Register your exhibit preference(s) where indicated at [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org).
  - c. Your online registration will be forwarded to, received, and confirmed by the Artistic Design Registrar, who will notify you of your exhibitor number and transfer online registration information to your online exhibitor card. Please confirm by e-mail to the Artistic Design Registrar, and if necessary, please notify the Registrar of additions to or changes in:
    - i. name(s) and address(es)
    - ii. GCV membership
    - iii. Novice status
    - iv. Mentor status
  - d. As soon as possible when the exhibit is complete, and before or by the deadline for submitting the photograph(s) of the exhibit, please email the Artistic Design Registrar the Floral Materials List and the Statement of Intent (25 words or fewer), as well as confirm Novice or Mentor status if applicable, for inclusion in judging and online presentation of the virtual show.
  - e. Completed exhibits are displayed and photographed in front of a backdrop (backboard or trifold) of the exhibitor's choice of color, unless otherwise specified in the Schedule.
  - f. Photographs should be taken according to the Class description and submitted in accordance with Schedule instructions.
  - g. Please include exhibitor number on all photographs and label with view parameters specified in the Schedule.
  - h. When exhibit photographs are received, the Passing Committee will review all exhibits for confirmation of compliance with the show Schedule. Exhibits that do not meet the Schedule requirements are subject to disqualification in consultation with the GCV Artistic Design Chairman and the GCV Judging Coordinator(s). If an exhibit is subject to disqualification, every effort will be made to notify the exhibitor(s) and if time permits give an opportunity to rectify the problem. Once an exhibit is passed, it will be judged.
  - i. Following judging, ribbons and Special Awards will be placed and presented at an online show debut and awards ceremony. Silver perpetual trophies will be displayed with the winner's name(s) at the Kent Valentine House and online.

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## Conditioning Plant Material for Artistic Design Entries

It is imperative that plant material used in artistic arrangements in flower shows be properly conditioned. A few recommendations follow:

1. Cut flowers in the cool of the day, i.e., early morning or late afternoon.
2. Cut on a slant with a sharp knife, sharp scissors or clippers.
3. Place immediately in deep, tepid water to reduce shock and enhance absorption.
4. Use clean glass or plastic containers (rinsed with bleach if possible). Some flowers react badly to metal containers.
5. Remove all the foliage from the part of the stems that will be below the waterline while conditioning and in the finished arrangement.
6. Condition flowers from 4 to 24 hours in a dark or shaded, cool, draft-free place.
7. Some plant material requires special attention.
  - a. Woody stems: split ends and scrape stem. Example: Lilacs, Azaleas.
  - b. Brittle stems: Break and scrape stem instead of cutting to allow more water absorption. Example: Chrysanthemum
  - c. Milky stems: Seal stem ends to prevent loss of sap; burn with an open flame or scald the end in boiling water. Example: Poppy, Poinsettia
  - d. Submerge Ivy, Hosta, and similar foliage completely underwater
  - e. Isolationists: It is best to condition some plant materials in a bucket without neighbors, as when cut they exude a substance that can diminish the condition of other plant materials. Example: Spurge (Euphorbia), Stock
8. To prevent the spread of Boxwood blight, Boxwood is not allowed at a GCV flower show.