

A Floral Wall Display

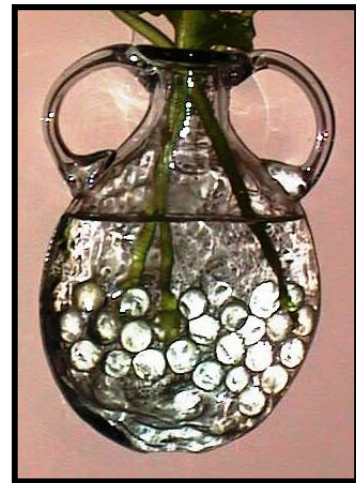


Flowers have long been an essential ingredient for creating warm, inviting spaces. They can easily be integrated into a room's decor through floral designs in fabrics and wall coverings. Accessorizing with fresh or silk flowers is another great way to brighten the atmosphere in any room in your

home. In fact, Matt and I often include floral arrangements in our room designs. We've found that the natural beauty of flowers can enhance any decorating style and can bring a room to life.

While back, we designed a room in which fresh flowers became wall art. The use of interesting glass vases and bold colored flowers added flair and drama to the room by creating a unique focal point. And, even if you're not an artist, you can create beautiful wall art with flowers!

To create a dimensional floral display for the wall, we found a narrow necked glass vase with handles, but a traditionally shaped vase could work just as well. The vase we used was available in two sizes, so we decided to create a trio of wall vases, using a large vase placed between two smaller ones. The three looked fabulous even empty just laying next to each other because of their clear textured glass. The texture would add an interesting element to the arrangement, while the clear glass would maximize the bold colors of the flowers.





To give the display even more depth, we decided to mount the vases to wooden backboards. We cut our boards approximately twice the height of the vases and one and a half times the width. To create a real contrast between the curvilinear vases and the backboards, we kept the boards very simple and straight lined.

Depending on the style of your room and vase, you might decide to make the backboard even more decorative by routing the edges. Be sure to sand the edges carefully before painting. We chose to paint ours in a cream color, which proved a pleasant contrast to both the wall and trim color.

Using a paint chip color strip is an easy way to ensure that the color you choose for your bases will complement your wall color. Just pick a color two to three shades lighter than your wall color for the perfect contrast. To complete the backboard, the next step is to add picture hangers to the back. It's best to use two hangers on each base to help stabilize them.



Depending on the shape of your vase, there are several ways to mount it to the wooden base. If you are using a traditionally shaped vase, you might try this method.

1 Place the vase on the board so it is centered and use a pencil to mark the position of the vase. Make two marks, one on each side of the vase near the top where the vase begins to narrow.

2 Using these marks as a guide use a small drill bit to drill holes completely through the board.

3 Measure the distance between the holes and cut a piece of 24 gauge wire twice this distance and add three inches. (Silver colored wire is the least visible on a clear vase.)

4 Push the wire through the holes and pull it tightly to the back of the base. Use a needle nosed pliers to twist and secure the wire in place. Make sure to line up the vase so that it is straight, and repeat the same process towards the bottom of the vase if possible.

Because the vases we used were shaped like jugs, we used monofilament to attach them to the bases. We cut two pieces of monofilament that measured three times the length of the vase. We folded each piece in half, put the loop end through the handles of the vase, and passed the two cut ends through the loops. We then pulled the monofilament up and over the back of the base and secured it in place with a small screw.



Before hanging your art on the wall, fill the bottom of the vases with stones, colored marbles or sea glass which will act like a floral frog and anchor the flowers in place.

Once mounted on the wall, fill the vases with water and add nature's art - the flowers. In the summer, choose flowers from your garden. In the winter, fresh flowers are available from a florist or supermarket, or you might decide to use silk flowers instead.

Cut the stems to allow the backboard to be a background for the flowers. Strip the stems so that no leaves are covered with water. Add a stem or two of foliage and stand back and admire.

The best thing about this project is that by changing the type of flower you use, you can change the entire look of the piece. From simple to elegant, this creation can only be described as fine art!

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