



701 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

YBCA.org

Free Art Workshop: Flower Clay Sculpture

By Teaching Artist: ChiChai Mateo, Teaching Assistant: Kerra Hendrickson

Program Support: Rea Lynn de Guzman, Senior Manager of Educational Programs

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Artwork sample by Rea Lynn de Guzman

DESCRIPTION

Find inspiration from flowers at the Yerba Buena Gardens and create colorful floral sculptures! Explore shapes, form, color, and various materials such as air-dry clay and markers. This workshop is inspired by the spring season and the Annual Flores de Mayo Celebration, hosted by YBCA's community partner SOMA Pilipinas, in the heart of the Filipino Heritage District.

MATERIALS

Model magic (white & primary colors), shape cutters (circles, hearts), sculpting tools, markers, parchment paper, paper plates, reference photos of flowers



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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What shapes and forms can you observe from these flowers?
- How can you pull inspiration from these simple parts of our everyday lives in other art projects?

Option 1



We're taking inspiration from this daisy flower.

STEPS

- Mix colors by combining the clay together. Add a little bit of yellow to the white for the daisy petals.
- Roll little pieces of clay to make your petals.
- Observe the shape of the petals in the photo reference. Using a sculpting tool, roll and shape each petal by stretching gently and pinching on each side.
- Mix colors to form the middle part of the daisy. Adding a little bit of red to yellow to make yellow orange.
- Use sculpting tools to add details such as lines and textures.
- Assemble the petals together by overlapping each shape and pinching at the bottom. Add as many petals as you'd like.

Option 2



We're taking inspiration from this flower at Yerba Buena Gardens!

STEPS

- Roll 5 balls of clay, about an inch big. This will be for the petals.
- Flatten each ball by using a marker as a rolling pin.
- Observe the shape of the petals in the photo sample. Shape each of your petals by gently pinching one side each.
 - Utilize markers to add details on your petals and/or use sculpting tools such as toothpicks to create texture.
- Assemble the petals together by having them overlap each other and pinching at the center of the flower. Use your finger or the curves of a sculpting tool or marker to structure the petals' positions.
- Make another ball of clay about a ¼ inch. Use toothpicks to transform the ball into a starlike shape. Place in the center of the flower.

REFLECTION

Consider the following questions in completion of your floral clay sculpture:

- How does using flowers as an art reference change your perspective on flowers?
- What do you notice more or differently about them?