

We have 3 Abstract Creative designs in the show this year. They should all follow the guidelines here.

They designs the guidelines apply to are :-

Class 2 Op Art design

Class 8 Abstract Creative design

Class 9 Collage

Classes 2 & 8 are designer's choice of materials - fresh or dried plant material. Class 9 is dried plant material only.

III. AMERICAN ABSTRACT CREATIVE DESIGN.

- A. Abstract Creative Designs share the same tangible characteristics as all other Creative Designs, but go a step further. They are designs with a **dominance** of abstraction. Abstraction in floral design is the act of separating the inherent physical qualities of plant material and other components from the associated or naturalistic concept of them. All Abstract Creative Designs are creative, but not all Creative Designs are abstract.
- B. Definition and Characteristics of Abstract Creative Design.
1. It is a design for which the designer selects, treats and/or organizes plant materials and other components in order to create a non-naturalistic and non-realistic design with a dominance of abstract characteristics. See C.
 2. Components are not selected for their normal function as the design is non-representational. They are selected solely for their elemental qualities of line, form, color and/or texture. Typically, they are bold in form, size and color.
 3. Plant materials which need not be in water are frequently used, as are non-traditional container/s with multiple

openings and unconventional, man-made objects not normally associated with floral design or art.

4. Space is vitally important as it is used to create new patterns. Plastic organization, interpenetration of space and penetration of space are essential design techniques in **II** Abstract Creative Design. See Chapter 9, p. 184 and **III**, A, 8-9 in this chapter. (both refer to *Barna Paragrantha*.)
- C. Ways of abstracting plant material and other components through selection, treatment and organization.

1. Pattern or form of the plant materials used may have been altered by nature, e.g., water, wind, disease, or by chemical.
 2. In the flower show, **fresh** plant materials may be abstracted by clipping, wiring, stripping, bending, tying, folding, placement, but must never be dyed, painted, waxed, glittered, etc. Skeletonizing of fresh plant material and the use of glycerin or other preservative are permitted since the finished product will then be considered treated dried plant material. See Chapter 7, p. 154
 3. In the flower show, **dried** plant materials may be abstracted with substance/s such as dye, paint, wax, polish, glitter, etc. It is then referred to as treated dried plant material.
 4. Designer avoids radial placement of plant materials as that would simulate nature.
 5. Designer ignores gradation and transition of color, size, and texture as rhythm and balance are achieved through the technique of dynamic balance (balance and counter-balance of solids in space) rather than traditional balance. See Chapter 8, III, A.
 6. Interest is to be equated over entire design, with the central area having lost its importance.
- D. Design Types that are Abstract Creative.
1. Assemblages and Collages must always be Abstract Creative. See Chapter 10, pp. 197-198 for full descriptions.
 2. Op Art, if floral design consists of illusionary components, may be considered Abstract Creative, as well as most Mobiles. See Chapter 10, p. 205.

It is important for American designers to recognize that there are other floral design styles being developed throughout the world. These can be seen at World Expositions and by attending international programs.