Flower Head

Flowers are a natural form. They can be brightly coloured, patterned and various shapes and sizes. Because of this, many artists have used flowers as inspiration for their artwork.

Famous floral artworks

Some of the most famous artworks featuring flowers are by the artist Vincent van Gogh. He was fascinated by sunflowers and, for him, the colour yellow was a symbol of happiness and sunshine. Here are two of his artworks inspired by sunflowers.

Three Sunflowers in a Vase, 1888

Six Sunflowers, 1888

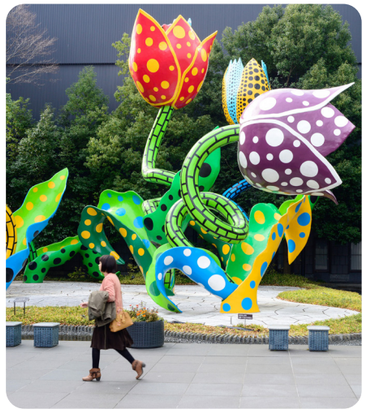
Contemporary artists

Many contemporary artists are inspired by flowers. These giant glass flowers are made by the artist Dale Chihuly. He loves to create art that uses the colours and forms of flowers to capture the imagination.

Persian Chandelier, 2004

Macchia Forest, 2001

Yayoi Kusama is another contemporary artist inspired by the natural forms of flowers. Her giant flower sculptures are brightly coloured and highly patterned. Her work is often placed in urban settings as a contrast to the surrounding buildings.



The Visionary Flowers, 2002

Flowers That Bloom Tomorrow, 2009

Visual elements

Colour

Flowers are brightly coloured to attract animals. The bright colours also make them a good subject for artists to paint. Vincent van Gogh was inspired by the beautiful bright blue of the iris flower in this famous painting.

irises

Irises, 1889

Texture

Flowers have interesting textures. Peonies have a soft and wrinkled texture, and tulips are smooth and shiny. In contrast, sunflower heads are rough and bumpy. Texture is added to artwork using textural materials or by making marks on the surface of the artwork.

peonies

tulips

sunflowers

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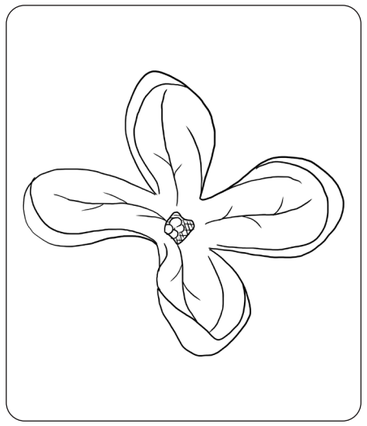
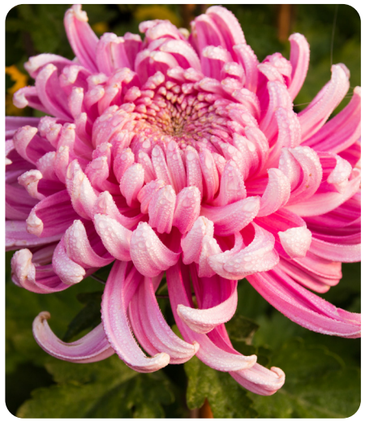
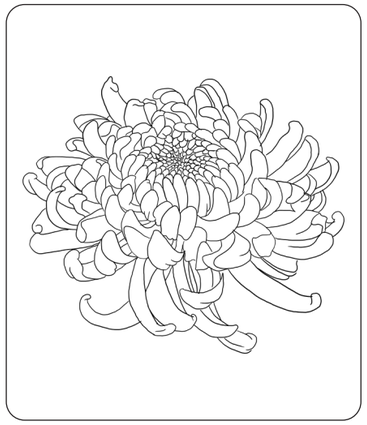
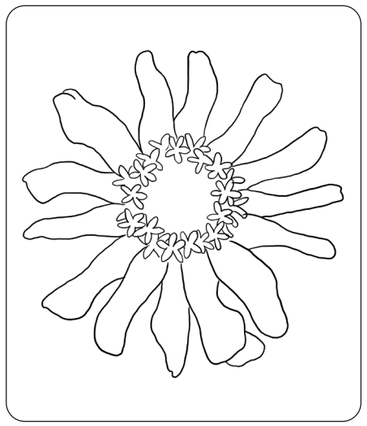
Lines and shapes

Flowers and petals have interesting shapes. When drawing, lines are used to create the outline of the flower or its smaller parts.



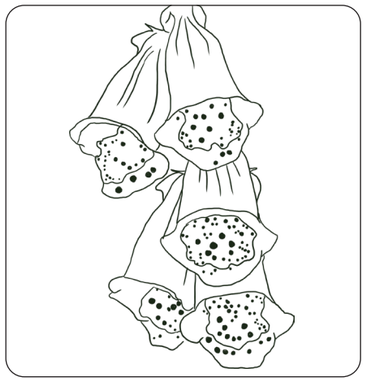




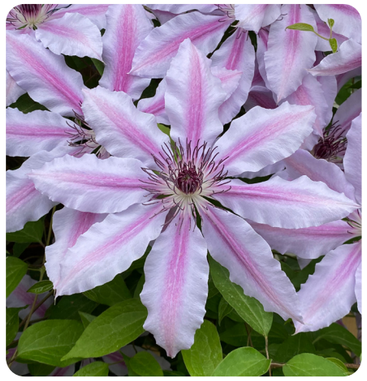


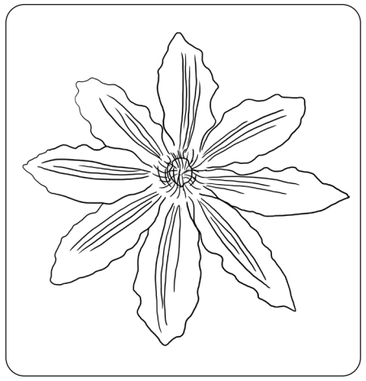
Pattern

Flowers often have beautiful and delicate patterns. Adding pattern to drawings adds interest and detail.

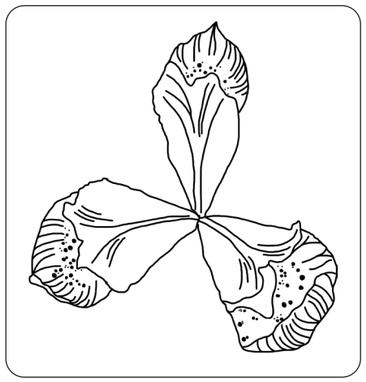


spots





stripes



spots and stripes

Form

Flowers come in different shapes and sizes. The form of a flower can inspire three-dimensional artwork, such as this orchid sculpture by artist Marc Quinn.

orchid

Orchid, 2013

Glossary

colour	*The hue or shade of something.*
contemporary artist	*An artist who is living at this time.*
form	*The 3-D shape of something.*
line	*A mark made in drawing.*
pattern	*A decorative design.*
sculpture	*A 3-D form.*
shape	*The outline of something.*
visual element	*A characteristic that can be seen, such as line, shape, form, colour, pattern and texture.*

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