



Look

A while back I remember Mufty saying 'there are never enough images'. Our Sunday morning workshop began with a 'How To' presentation with ten creatives listening to music and looking at her underwater flowers images...not one photograph was the same. And I learn by looking and I love music...so it was a perfect beginning in her cozy home.



© Mufty Mathewson



© Mufty Mathewson

What Do You Need?

liquid...distilled...sparkling...ginger ale...champagne...all work but it seems that tap water works just fine...and it was suggested we enjoy sipping champagne instead.

You will need a transparent container suitable for both the object and the image you want to capture...large round glass vases...work best...although experimenting with different sizes will change your composition. Mufty shared one of her mother's large vases...and tells us she has been teaching her 'Flowers under water' workshop for nearly 25 years.

Mufty provided us with the freedom to move, to use of different lights, to position our cameras at different angles, and to play with the lights to illuminate the scene at any point of interest...she also suggested to play with back lighting using various colours of cloth and fabrics...



Thoroughly clean the inside surface of the glass...measure the height of length of your stem and cut it to fit into the vase making sure it is covered with liquid...rinse the stem of the flower/s, then attached it to the "pin frog" ...these pins can be purchased at Michael's craft store...

gently slide the holder...down the side of the bowl...as not to break the glass...fill the vase slowly with tap water or sparkling water...avoid direct pouring on the blossom...letting the vase sit for 24 hours you will see many bubbles emerge...another hint Mufty suggested was the use of a spatula which allows you to remove any unwanted bubbles that cling to the side of the glass...so you can play and move the bubbles...

Choosing the flowers to be photographed

Mufty made a suggestion of picking out flowers later in the day...before the shop closes for the weekend and perhaps, you can get some free blossoms or some for a good deal...

Simple flowers work best...waxy ones...such as an iris, rose, or gerber...your arrangement can last up to 3 to 4 days depending on the 'waxiness' of the blossom...



Macro lens...seems required... but your best close-up lens will work...a tripod and shutter release...also seem like great allies for this type of work/play.

As I learn along the way I appreciated other photographers sharing their knowledge on the choices of different camera settings...for me, this is one of the wonderful parts of working together.

Taking photographs of flowers using water is joyful and rewarding. Always the challenge to create a strong composition. It's all practice. I have no doubt you will be thrilled by the fast results you can create with this under water technique.

Here are some images we all created over the morning. Thank you kindly Mufty for your teachings. Your home was filled with concentration and joyful energy.

by hedy bach 18-01-18



© Hedy Bach



© Michele Marshall



© Michele Marshall



© Michele Marshall



© Michele Marshall



© Michele Marshall



© Susanne Pawliuk



© Susanne Pawliuk