

CREATE At-Home Art Activities for Kids & Families

Color & Shape

Cam Langley's *Three Flower Bouquet*

Alabama artist Cam Langley was known for his signature fantasy flowers and elegant stemware in blown and hot-worked glass as seen in the *Three Flower Bouquet*. Langley's bouquet demonstrates his use of vibrant colors and a variety of shapes to create a playful floral work of art.



Cam Langley (1948-2013) *Three Flower Bouquet*, 1995, blown and hot-worked glass, 23 x 11 x 11 inches, Museum Purchase in memory of Louise Smith and Louise Marsh

In this **At-Home Art Activity for Kids & Families**, we'll go through step-by-step on how to create a watercolor painting inspired by Langley's *Three Flower Bouquet*, 1995.

Let's Begin:

- How many flowers do you see in the vase?
- Do you think these are real or imagery flowers?
- What type of shapes are the flowers? circle, oval, etc.
- Can you name the colors of the flowers?

Primary Colors: Red, Yellow, Blue

Secondary Colors: Green Orange, Violet

Materials:

Pencil

Paper

Water-based markers

Black Sharpie pen (permanent ink marker)

Paint Brush

Water Container

Art Activity Instructions:

1. Using the tulip flower and vase template below, draw the vase and tulip flower onto your drawing paper using first your pencil and then trace around using the black permanent marker. If you do not have a black permanent marker, you can use your pencil drawing.



2. Choose two color markers. Then fill in the tulip flower and the stem. Add a surface for your floral artwork by adding another color marker at the bottom of the paper.



3. Next, add water to the areas where you filled in with markers. Dip your brush into the water and remove the excess water by tapping on the edge of the container. Your drawing has now become a watercolor painting. Notice how the water-based marker becomes transparent on the paper. **All done!**



Optional: Share your artwork on Twitter @HSVmuseumArt or Instagram with #hsvmuseum; #HeARTforHSV

Art Terms

Two-dimensional: lack of depth, flat (such as a piece of drawing paper)

Three-dimensional: a figure with length, width and height (such as flower vase)

Blown Glass: a glass-forming technique that involves inflating molten glass into a bubble with the aid of a blowpipe

Hot Glass: glass that is manipulated while it is hot

Transparent: allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen on the paper

Cam Langley

Over a thirty-year period, Cam Langley became a respected figure in Alabama art circles, known for his signature fantasy flowers and elegant stemware in blown and hot-worked glass. Initially trained as a civil engineer, he developed an interest in glass in the late 1970s, after observing glassblowing demonstrations and encountering masterworks of contemporary glass at museums across the country. A visit with Harvey Littleton, the dean of the American Studio Glass movement, led Langley to seek training at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and at the University of Wisconsin, where he gained skill in glassblowing and refined his signature forms inspired by nature. In 1983 he moved to Birmingham to marry fellow artist Janice Kluge, and soon thereafter set up a professional hot glass studio that was for many years the only facility of its kind in the state.

On the occasion of Langley's first wedding anniversary, he made glass flowers as a gift for his wife as a reminder of a love that would never fade. Glass bouquets from that prototype became his principal production interest. "Initially I was influenced by Louis Comfort Tiffany and the turn-of-the-century glassblowers who created Art Nouveau forms," he once noted. "Moving through different periods of design, it seems that one form has transformed into another, helping me move from vase to flower to stemmed flowers."

Langley's distinctive bouquets dazzle the eye with vibrant color and assured form, contrasting voluptuous blooms with sinuous leaves that often arc into space with exuberance. Some are brightly playful, communicating an eccentric, cartoonish joy. Others are coolly ethereal, more restrained in color and formally arranged. All reveal Langley's technical proficiency in glass and keen sense of color, form, and three-dimensional composition.

Reference: ***Our Shared Heritage: Alabama Artists from the Collection of the Huntsville Museum of Art*** © 2019.

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