

# MONET'S ARTWORK BLOOMS

## Blog 'n' Craft Blueprint

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**Chrysanthemums**  
Claude Monet — Oil on Canvas — 1897

"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."

— **Oscar-Claude Monet**

Learn about artwork  
that blooms  
as you discover  
a floral masterpiece.  
THEN have oodles of fun  
creating your own  
Chrysanthemum garden  
using brightly-colored  
sheets of paper!

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Before looking at Oscar-Claude Monet's beautiful artwork entitled **Chrysanthemums** (1897), let's start by discovering a little bit about the artist himself.

• Claude Monet, as he is commonly referred to, is most well-known for being a member of a league of French artists known as 'Impressionists.' As a matter of fact, as one of the very first Impressionist painters of his time, Monet has been dubbed 'The Father of Impressionism!'

• However, he did have another lesser-known claim to fame, and it had to do with his passion. Can you imagine what Monet's second

claim to fame was? Here are two clues: his second claim to fame is why we say, "Monet's artwork blooms," and why Monet is quoted as saying, "I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers."

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If you guessed that Monet's claim to fame and passion — second to art — was flowers and gardening, you are 100% correct. We'll learn more about Monet's blooming passion in just a little bit.

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**'Impressionism'** is — one of the more short-lived art movements in history lasting from 1865-1885 — a mere 20 years. However, coupled with the invention of the camera, it soon became a very influential 20 years — after which the world would never look upon art in the same light, literally.

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Prior to the invention of the camera and the Impressionist movement of the late 19th century, artists strived to paint everyday scenes with the reality of what we would expect to see in a modern-day photograph. As a matter of fact, people thought of art as a sort of visual record of history before we began to think of photos as such. The invention and mass production of the camera changed all of that and allowed artists to paint in a different light.

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And paint in a different light they did!

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Impressionists were more concerned with painting the light and the color of a moment in time rather than depicting every little detail of the subjects they were observing. As a result, they moved from inside stuffy studios to paint in the great outdoors where an abundance of natural light flooded their subjects. Because they were most concerned with capturing light and how it reflected off objects and affected color, they had to work very quickly as natural outdoor light changes by the minute.

- Therefore Impressionists painted very quickly. They were always trying to paint their subjects before the light changed. Because light changes minute-by-minute, they used very rapid, thick — quite messy — brush strokes and started with a palette of pure unmixed paint colors, mixing them directly on the canvas to save time. Also in a time-saving effort, rather than painting every detail, they painted only a glimpse — in other words, an 'impression' — of what the person, object, or landscape looked like to them.

- Monet's passion for everything gardening and flowers inspired him to create a floral esplanade at his homestead in Giverny [zhee-vayr-nee], France — where he spent forty-three years, from 1883 to 1926. There — with the help of his family and six gardeners — Monet composed each of his spectacular gardens as he would have composed any one of his magnificent paintings. As the story goes, after Monet first planted his floral

masterpieces, he left to travel Europe and didn't return until the Giverny gardens had fully matured — at which time he began painting them.

- What makes Monet different from other Impressionists of his time is that because of his obvious passion for flowers, his artwork blooms. He often painted flowers and as a result painted many works based on the flowers within his sprawling gardens.

- The gardens — just to the north of Paris, France — are now maintained just as Monet kept them. His love of gardening — as well as color — is evident from the sheer complexity of the landscape and its palette.

- Monet painted this particular ver-

ers — geraniums, water lilies, gladiolus, daisies, Jerusalem artichokes, dahlias, tulips, poppies, azaleas — you name the flower, and Claude Monet probably painted it. With so many beautiful floral paintings to explore, you can be sure there will be many more Monet mini-adventures to come.

- Monet painted flowers both growing in the garden as well as those cut and arranged in vases. Clearly the flowers seen in 'Chrysanthemums' are growing in a garden because Monet has given us a glimpse — an impression — of the green vegetation surrounding the delicate flowers.

- The flowers are not terribly detailed and therefore don't look exactly as they would in real life. Rather they appear to be an im-



sion of **Chrysanthemums** in 1897. However, it wasn't *just* chrysanthemums that Monet prolifically painted. He loved to paint all flow-

pression of what Monet actually saw when painting the flowers. It is apparent that he was painting the light that shined upon the



flowers — in what would be called ‘highlights’ — rather than the flower petals themselves. Look closely at the painting and you will see differing shades and tints of certain colors. The lightest tints are the highlights.

- It’s easiest to see the highlights on the darkest flowers — in this case the red. The light pink areas on the dark red flowers are the highlights and where Monet painted the light reflecting from the flower petals.

- There are so many beautiful colors within this work of art — yellow, blue, green, orange, pink, peach, white, etc. Color can often be used to emphasize — in order to draw in the eye — a specific part of a piece of artwork. Monet used bright white in the center of the canvas to draw the viewer’s eye into the artwork. Look away from the artwork for a minute and then look back — to where in the painting is your eye drawn first?

- The following fun, hands-on artsy craft will have you using bold and beautiful, brightly-colored papers to create a lovely garden of flowers — so your artwork blooms too!

- Before you begin your artwork, think about Oscar-Claude Monet’s masterpiece titled Chrysanthemums — painted in 1897 — and ask yourself the following questions.

- 1. Will I try to create emphasis with color in any part of my flower garden?
  2. How might I emphasize with different colors — what colors will I choose to use?
  3. And where do I envision that emphasis to be within my artwork?

## Paper Art Chrysanthemums



Create **Paper Art Chrysanthemums** for hands-on fun with Impressionism!

### MATERIALS

- 8-1/2" x 11" Green Paper
- Colored Paper
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- **Pattern Cutout Sheet** (see **Blog ‘n’ Craft Blueprints** in the **Monet** section)
- No. 2 Pencil
- White School Glue
- Markers & Buttons (*optional*)



Everything you need to create **Paper Art Chrysanthemums**!

### DIRECTIONS

A printable **Pattern Cutout Sheet** for this activity, may be downloaded from our website in the **Monet** section of **Blog ‘n’ Craft Blueprints** and printed out onto white cardstock.

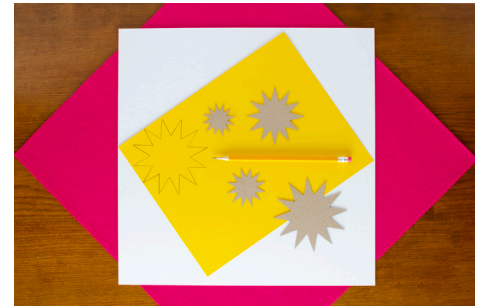
- Begin by choosing varying shades of the same color as Monet did. You’ll need to cut out six to seven flowers to fill the 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of

green paper. You may also want to plan cutting some leaves from a lighter shade of green paper.

- **\*Age Option:** Younger children may prefer to use simple circles. Have them fringe the edges of the circles using scissors.



With the No. 2 pencil, trace the largest template onto a piece from the assortment of colored papers. Using the other four different-sized templates, trace each onto a variety of colored papers. Remember to consider varying shades of the same color.



**\*Tip:** When tracing each shape, place the template as close as possible to the edge of the paper or to any other shapes that you have traced.

- Proceed to cut out all the basic shapes from the various pieces of colored paper.



Once all your shapes have been cut from the paper, slit the edges of your flower pieces using your scissors. For the starburst shapes, this means cutting each point of the starburst into two — just to the point at which the petal starts at the circle, or at the 'V' juncture.



Do not split the petals on the smallest starburst shape. When using the simple circle stencil, cut 1/8"-1/4" slits around the circumference of each circle. The smallest circle can be cut or left with a smooth edge.

Gently bend all paper slits up from the edge of each shape towards the center — making a more decorative fringe edge — thus creat-

ing your chrysanthemum petals.

To form a chrysanthemum, glue the five decorative-edged shapes to one another — starting with the largest on the bottom and working your way up to the smallest on the top. While considering your garden pattern, position your flowers onto the green paper.

*\*Optional: Using the colored markers, draw a detailed center into each chrysanthemum — or glue a button into the center of each paper flower.*

Should you desire, cut leaf shapes from a sheet of light green paper and position them underneath your stacked shapes.

Glue each flower, with leaves (if you so choose) into place on the 8-1/2" x 11" green paper.



Now — just like Oscar-Claude Monet — you have created a lovely garden of chrysanthemums. Hang your beautiful, brightly-colored

garden on your refrigerator door to add a touch of French-Impressionism to your kitchen.

Ooh là là!



### SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY!

Post a picture of your artsy craft on social media using **#fineartfunart**.

### SEARCH & FIND SOLUTION

How many pairs of handprints did you find for each of the three colors?

RED	YELLOW	BLUE	WHITE
3	3	3	3



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# MONET'S ARTWORK BLOOMS

## Search & Find Puzzle Fun

Find and count all the red, yellow, and blue handprints hidden in our special 'hands-on' version of Impressionist Claude-Pierre Monet's famous artwork, *Chrysanthemums*, painted in 1897!

[www.arttoknowwithmommyo.com](http://www.arttoknowwithmommyo.com)



How many pairs of handprints do you find for each of the four colors?

RED

YELLOW

BLUE

WHITE