

WORKSHOP: "FABRIC FLOWERS"



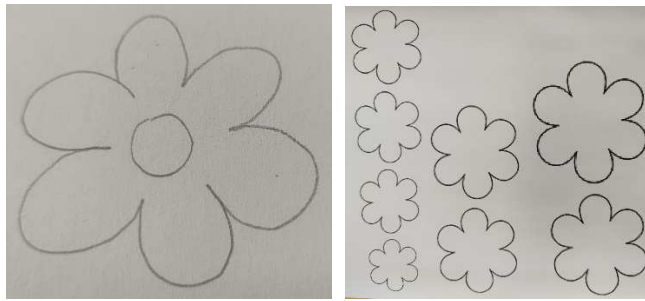
Summary: Participants learn to create flowers using denim, fabric scraps, buttons, ribbon, beads and found objects. They can sew or glue depending on their preference. Flowers can be attached to fabric wrapped wire or a surface like a canvas or cradled wood board for display or added to clothing, bags and accessories. Participants can take the project in their own direction using materials and support surfaces of their choice.

Materials and Equipment:

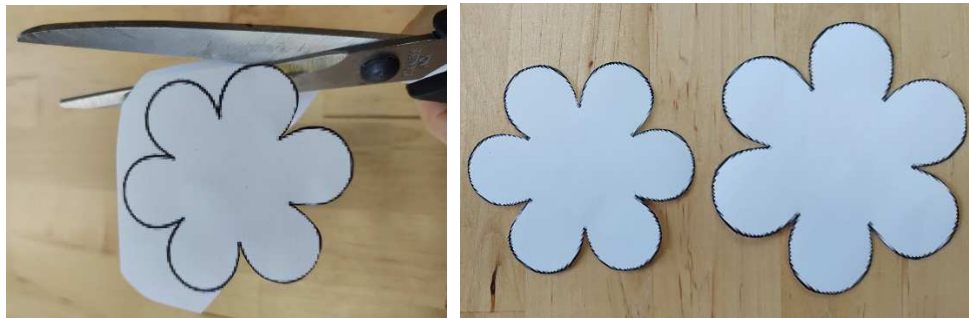
scrap denim	pencil, eraser, sharpener
scrap upholstery fabrics	sketch paper
scrap fabrics assorted colours	paper scissors
small sharp sewing scissors	scrap cardboard for under glue gun
fabric shears	glue gun (several if using coloured glue sticks)
braid	glue sticks – plain and coloured
buttons	cardboard for under glue gun
beads	heat protective gloves
ribbons	wood skewers
wire, about 20-gauge, or coat hanger	pliers/wire cutters
sewing kit with needles, pins & thread	water soluble marker
foil scraps	flower pattern templates
optional: pinking shears	optional: hair barrettes and/or gallery board
optional: peel and stick or sew-on Velcro	optional: liquid fray preventer
optional: stick or sew on Velcro	artwork samples
instructions/ideas sheet	

Class Plan: Denim Rose

1. Sketch a flower shape and a smaller version of the same thing, or use the templates provided.
 - a. There are a lot of flower patterns available online for free or for purchase. Just make sure the ones you are using are free if you are using them without purchasing.



- b. Adaptation: try a simpler shape if needed or for fun like a circle or irregular shape.
2. Cut out your flower patterns using paper scissors. Paper dulls scissors, so keeping separate scissors for sewing and fabrics makes cutting easier.



3. Pin your pattern to your fabric or draw around it using a water-soluble marker on the side to be the back.



4. With scissors used just for fabric, cut out 3 flowers using your smaller flower pattern and one with your larger flower pattern.



- a. Cut them out of a few shades of denim for variety and/or upholstery fabric.

5. Roll a small ball of scrap foil that fits in the centre of your flower, about the size shown below.



6. Start with a small fabric flower wrong side up. Hot glue your foil ball in the centre.



a. We recommend wearing protective gloves when using hot glue.

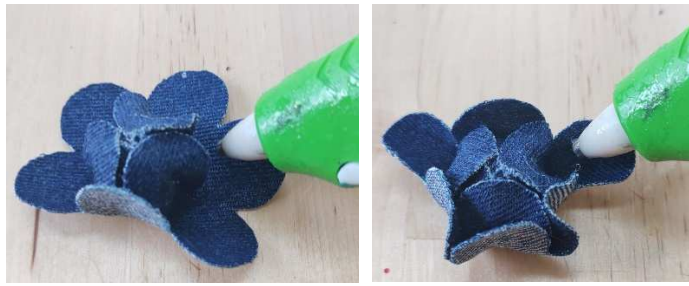
7. Fold up and glue in place every other flower petal, covering the centre of the foil ball. Apply glue almost to the top of each petal.



8. Fold up and glue the remaining flower petals.



9. Place the next fabric flower under your foil ball flower ball, right side up. Glue the petals onto the centre ball, applying glue from the centre only part way up the petal so they sit partly open at the top.



10. Add the larger fabric flower cutout for the third layer, placing it face up and gluing as in the previous step with the glue going less of the way up each petal (stack your flower shapes with the largest second from the bottom).



11. Add the last smaller fabric flower, gluing the petals only a small amount near the centre. Here we added a coloured fabric flower layer to add interest.



12. When your flower is finished there are lots of things you can do with it:



- a. Try gluing three in a row on a hair barrette with a few green fabric snippets for leaves.



- b. It can be glued to a surface like wood or glued to a piece of Velcro to attach to a handbag or clothing.
- c. Add a ribbon and safety or brooch pin to attach it to your coat.



13. Adaptation: If you are using circles instead of flower shapes:

- a. Cut little slashes into the edges at about $\frac{1}{2}$ " intervals around. Don't cut all the way to the centre. This will make the edges look like petals when scrunched.
- b. Use household objects to trace around to get different circle sizes.



14. Happy creating, and please send us photos of your creations if you feel comfortable sharing.

Class Plan: Invented Flower

1. Try making a flower of your own design by rolling pieces of fabric, cutting different shapes and experimenting.
2. Below is another example idea. All steps can be done either with stitching or gluing.
3. Cut one fabric flower out of denim and glue a narrow piece of scrap lace in a circle on it with hot glue.

- a. We recommend wearing protective gloves when working with hot glue.



4. Cut a strip of fabric about 1.1/4" wide from an old pair of jeans. It doesn't have to be exact. Our strip is about 2' long. The longer it is, the wider your flower centre will be, or you can trim off any excess later.



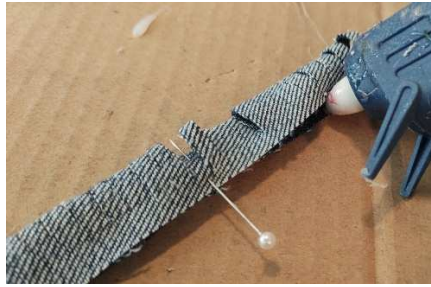
5. Fold your denim strip lengthwise and pin every few inches.



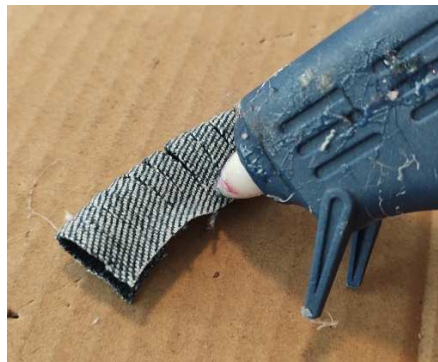
6. Snip the folded edge of your denim strip about every 1/8", snipping to about 1/8" away from the open edge.



7. Removing pins as you go, apply hot glue in 2-3 inches lengths in between the cut edges of your denim and press them together with a skewer or popsicle stick.



- a. This can be done by sewing instead if you prefer, which is also more environmentally friendly.
8. Hand stitch or apply hot glue in 2-3-inch lengths on the surface of your denim strip and roll it up from one end. Keep stitching or gluing, and rolling until your flower centre is the width you want for your cutout flower shape.



9. Stitch or apply hot glue to the centre of your flower in a wide circle. Press your flower roll into the glue to assemble.



10. Wait a few minutes for the glue to dry before continuing. It can be hot underneath through the fabric.
11. Ruffle the centre of your flower out and remove any glue threads.
12. Happy creating, and please send us photos of your creations if you feel comfortable sharing.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- If you prefer sewing to gluing, hand sew each step with a few tack stitches instead of using hot glue. Your flowers can also be sewn onto garments.
- Try cutting out a circle or simple irregular shape for fun or to making cutting out easier.

- Try replacing the foil centre with a bead or button that isn't completely covered if you don't have foil. Use a series of flower sizes slightly smaller than the previous one working from the base to the top, ending with a bead.



- Try embellishing your flowers with washes and dabs of acrylic paint. You can mix your acrylic paint 1:1 with fabric medium to increase wash fastness if you are attaching your flowers to something that will be washed.
- Try attaching your flowers to a Velcro patch, to attach your creation in different places on a garment or even on a wall with either sew-on or peel-and-stick Velcro.
- Try attaching your flowers to a gallery board and hanging them on the wall.



- Try making your own artificial flowers from beads, fabric scraps, salvaged clothing and found objects. Here we have used existing leaf patterns on a beaded textile, cut them out, treated the edges with liquid fray preventer and used hot glue to attach the floral strip to a hair barrette.



Trouble Shooting:

- Hot glue does not stick that well to metal and can pop off later. If you glue straight onto the metal on a hair barrette and it comes off later, try securely wrapping the metal with a piece of fabric first and then glue onto that. Glue the fabric ends to the fabric to hold it in place.
- Hot glue can also transfer heat to metal, so gloves are recommended.