

# *The History of Floral Design*



Floral Design

## *Basic History*

- Flowers have long been used for decoration and adornment
- Arranging flowers dates back to ancient cultures
- Awareness and appreciation for floral arrangements is increased by looking at historical paintings, engravings, tapestries, or other works of art
- Kinds of flowers, foliage used, arrangement design, and container all influence the various floral arrangements over time



## *Period Style*

- This term is used to designate a single item or a complete arrangement style prevalent in a specific country at a particular time in history
- Gaining knowledge of floral styles and traditions of past eras helps to create compositions that express a unique feeling of another time and place
- Some floral compositions must harmonize with a period-style room, or perhaps an ancient history museum, or a hotel lobby style



# *Flower Art in Ancient Civilizations*



Egyptian

Greek

Roman

Byzantine

## *Egyptian Period*

- Cut flowers were used as decorations
- Flowers were *important in life events* such as religious ceremonies, decorative purposes, and personal adornment
- Favored containers were wide mouthed vases, jars, and bowls made of molded glass, pottery, metals, and stones
- Floral art was *simplistic, repetitious, and highly stylized*
- Primary colors (red, blue, yellow) were common
- Floral decorations include chaplets, wreaths, garlands, and flower collars

# *Egyptian Period*



## Greek Period



- Flowers and petals were scattered on grounds during festivals and used to make wreaths and garlands
- Flowers to wear were important, such as:
  - *wreaths, chaplets, and garlands*
- Wreaths were the symbol of allegiance and dedication, and were so important that books were written about the proper etiquette for wearing them
- The cornucopia was introduced in this period (also called the *horn of plenty*) and was upright with flowers, fruits, and vegetables, to associate a bountiful autumn harvest

# Greek Period





## *Roman Period*

- *Wreaths and garlands were heavy and elaborate*
- Fragrant flowers with bright colors were favored including *rose blossoms and petals scattered* on banquet tables, streets, and lakes during festivals and ceremonies
- Baskets of mixed flowers were introduced with roses, anemones, tulips, dianthus, and other flowers in combinations of colors and forms – this is the *first representation of a truly naturalistic flower bouquet*

# Roman Period



## *Byzantine Period*

- *Different mosaics were common*
- Symmetrical, stylized tree compositions and containers filled with foliage to represent conical trees were introduced
- Garlands were constructed with narrow bands of *flower or fruit alternating with foliage using a twisted, spiral effect*

*Byzantine Period*

