Age: 4+

Materials: Fresh cut flowers (flowers with brighter pigment like bright yellows and dark purples transfer the best), Hammer or coin, Waxed paper or paper towel, Watercolor paper (or any white paper), Pencil, Scissors, Cookie cutters (optional)

Introduction: Spring brings lots of flowers all around us. But did you know that you can make some art prints from your favorite fresh blooms? This week we will transform fresh flowers into a gorgeous art piece. Collect a few flowers, and let’s turn them into great gifts! We will use a technique called Transfer, which means moving an image from one surface to another, usually achieved by placing a material in between the image and the surface and rubbing the back of it so that the image is copied.

Activity:

1) Start by collecting flowers in different shapes, colors, and sizes. Once you have a good number, cut each flower at the base, close enough to remove the whole stem while still keeping the flower intact. Arrange them face down on a piece of white paper.

2) Then, cover the arrangement with either waxed paper or a paper towel. Next, use a hammer to pound around the circumference of the flower, applying pressure to the area around the petals, but avoiding the center. If you prefer, you can use a coin and rub the wax paper.
TIP: It may be helpful to try transferring a few flowers onto a scrap piece of paper to see how each flower transfers over; this will give you a good idea of how best to transfer your final design.

Repeat this process until you’re happy with the way the flower art looks. You can add green leaves as well!

3) Carefully remove the waxed paper and flowers from the paper. Set the paper in a cool, dry area; let dry completely.

4) Once dry, draw a shape with your pencil into the transferred watercolor paper. You can use your cookie cutters to guide you or draw a simple shape. Cut the shape with your scissors.
Want to try something else with your leftover flowers?

5) In a book, between sheets of parchment paper or paper towel, lay your leftover flowers at the peak of their freshness. The flowers should be as dry as possible.

6) Close the book firmly and pile heavy books, weights, or heavy items on top and leave for 7 days up to 1 month. Open the book and take a look at your flowers. How do they look now? You can use them to decorate or make other collages as well!