

Port St. Lucie Orchid Society



Amazing Exhibits . . . on a Smaller Scale!

By Judy Bailey, Accredited American Orchid Society Judge

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What makes an amazing exhibit? Judy gave us some great hints in designing exhibits.

First, she pointed us to the American Orchid Society (AOS) Judging Handbook which is available for downloading on the AOS website (aos.org).

Principles of Design

The principles of design she said are art standards based on natural laws and apply to all forms of art to include flower arrangements and exhibits. These principles are:

- Balance
- Contrast
- Dominance
- Proportion
- Rhythm
- Scale.

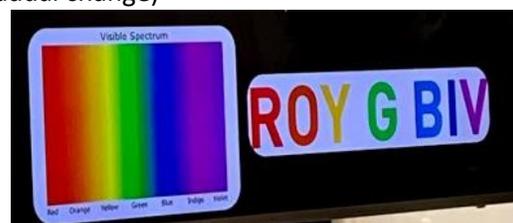
In discussing the design of exhibits, she shared with us the following AOS point scale for exhibits used by judges:

Design	35
Quality of Flowers	35
Variety	20
Labeling	<u>10</u>
Total	100 points

In designing a display, the orchids, of course, are the focal point.

What is meant by the principles of design and how do they apply to orchid displays?

- Balance = visual stability (symmetric vs asymmetric)
- Contrast = difference such as between light vs dark, soft vs stiff, etc.
- Dominance = one element is greater (larger, bolder, etc.)
- Proportion = relationship to each other and to the whole
- Rhythm = dominant visual path (repetition or gradual change)
- Scale = the relative size relationship as well as Color Flow. Color flow should follow the visible spectrum and can be remembered by its acronym

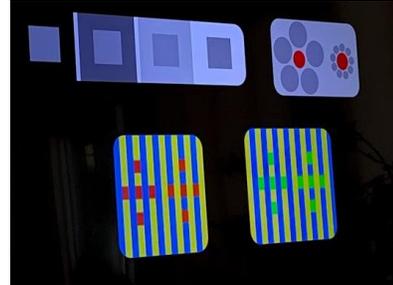


Proportion, Scale, and Balance

She further explained that according to professional florists, the height of flowers should be 2 ½ times the height of vases. Additionally, the largest most mature flowers are on the bottom with buds and newest flowers on top. This simulates nature.

Color Flow

Colors that follow the spectrum give a display a cohesive look. Flower colors can appear “altered” when placed next to “non-adjacent colors.” The examples she provided really proved this point.



Questions to Ask

When you design an exhibit, you need to ask these questions:

- Are orchids the star of the exhibit?
- Are the flowers fresh and undamaged?
- Is the exhibit “artistic”?



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What Does Artistic Mean?

Judy defined artistic as meaning “aesthetically pleasing, done skillfully, and showing imagination and skill.” One of the great examples she provided included providing “negative space” in the exhibit which creates depth and invites the observer to enter into the exhibit.

