



# OFRENDAS

CELEBRATING  
EL DÍA DE MUERTOS



## ARTMAKING PROJECT | Paper Marigolds!



*Los alebrijes también celebran, 2018, Mario Alberto Martínez Mendez.*

Each year in celebration of Dia de Muertos, the Detroit Institute of Arts, in partnership with Detroit's Mexican Consulate, hosts a community exhibition of ofrenda altars. In Mexico, and other Latin American countries, the Day of the Dead is the time of the year to celebrate the lives of close relatives, friends or community members who have passed away.

Objects important to lost loved ones, such as favorites foods, drinks, mementos and pictures, are collected and incorporated into elaborate displays that include pan de muerto (bread of the dead), sugar skulls, candles, papel picado, tissue paper flags, and flowers.

Marigolds are often used because of their pungent scent and bright colors. These qualities are believed to help guide the spirits as they visit their respective altars.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Who will you commemorate with your paper marigold?
- What other items can you display with your flowers?
- How else can you use art to honor someone's memory?

### MATERIALS



Tissue Paper (4-6 sheets per flower)



Wire

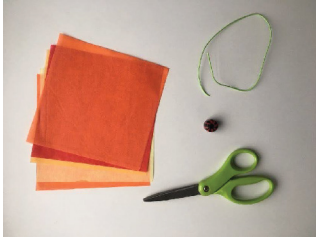


Scissors



Bead or large button (optional)

## ARTMAKING PROJECT | Directions



### Step 1

Lay your tissue squares on top of one another. You can use all the same color, or try different combinations. Warm colors like shades of orange, yellow, red, and brown work great for a marigold.

### Step 2

Fold your tissue squares back and forth, creating an accordion fold.

### Step 3

Wrap your wire around the center, include a bead or button as the center if you like.

### Step 4

Cut the edges of the tissue all together, try a rounded, pointed, or zig-zag cut.

### Step 5

Gently unfold and start to separate and fan out the layers of tissue, creating your flower petals. From here you can sculpt the tissue until you get it just right. Just like in nature, every flower you make will be unique!

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