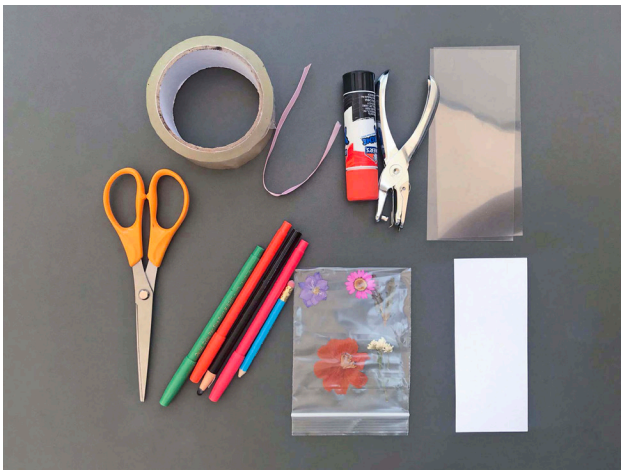


# Norton Simon Museum

## Art-Making Activity Create a Floral Bookmark

Growing up, Rachel Ruysch learned about the natural world while assisting her scientist father with his collection of plants and insects. Later she used this knowledge to create dynamic paintings of flowers and insects that made her one of the most successful painters of her time. Inspired by her still life, *Nosegay on a Marble Plinth*, create a floral bookmark that sparks your interest in nature and the world around you. Find out more about this painting and follow along in an art-making video on our website with Museum Educator, Hanna Meshell.

Rachel Ruysch (Dutch, 1664/5–1750), *Nosegay on a Marble Plinth*, c. 1695, oil on canvas, The Norton Simon Foundation



### Materials

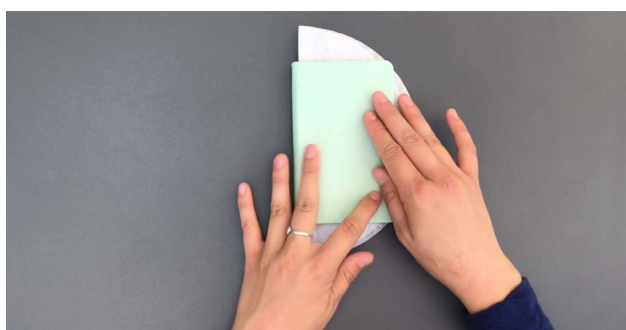
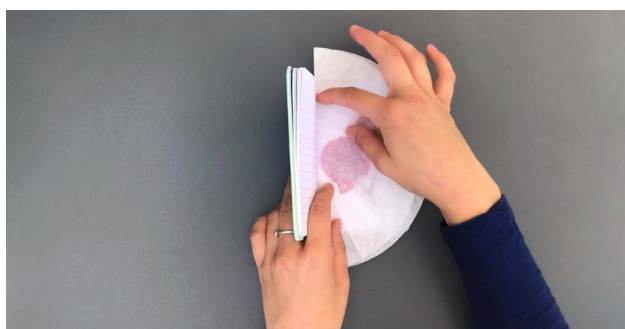
- A bookmark-sized piece of card stock paper (preferably in a dark color)
- Pressed flowers
- Self-laminating sheets or clear packing tape
- Pencil
- Ribbon
- Glue stick
- Coffee filters or some other kind of absorbent paper
- Some heavy books
- Colored pencils, pastels, or crayons
- Hole punch or scissors

## Steps

1

To press your flowers, you will need a book, some absorbent paper like coffee filters, flowers and a heavy object like a stack of books. Place your flowers in between two sheets of the absorbent paper. Then put your flowers and absorbent

papers in between the pages of a book. Finally, put a heavy object on top of the closed book with the flower in its pages. You can press your flowers for as long as you like.



➡ *These flowers looked like this after two weeks of being pressed.*



2

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Looking at your pressed flowers, make a drawing inspired by them on one side of your bookmark. You might consider arranging them at a diagonal like in *Nosegay on a Marble Plinth* to make it more exciting. If you plan to add a ribbon to your bookmark, be sure to leave some space for a hole in the top of your bookmark.



3

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If you'd like, use colored pencils, markers or crayons to color in your composition.



4

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On the other side of your bookmark, play with different ways of arranging your pressed flowers. When you are ready, glue them down on the bookmark. Again, remember to leave some space for a hole in the top of your bookmark if you'd like to add a ribbon later.

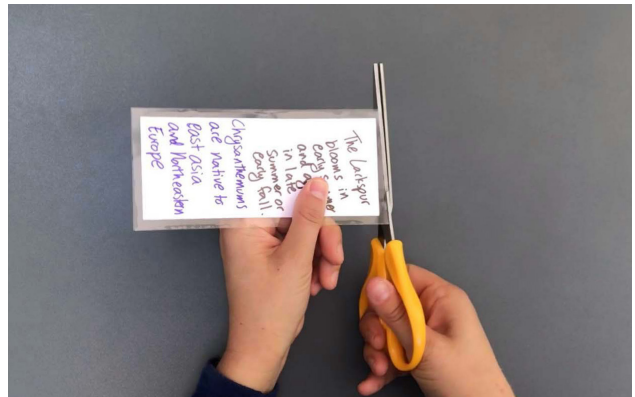
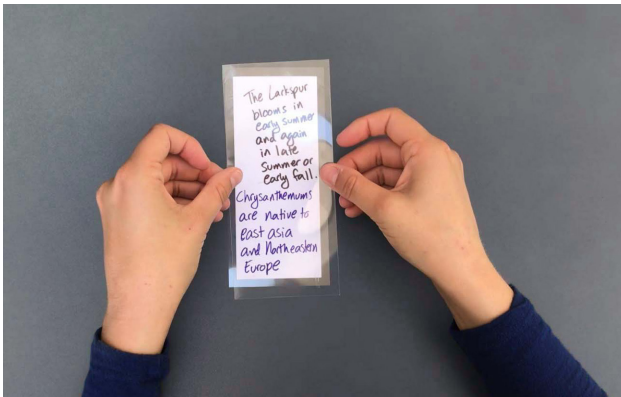




5

Peel the paper off of one of the self-laminating sheets if you have them or cut a piece (or multiple pieces) of clear packing tape long enough to cover the bookmark. Then, carefully place the sticky side of the sheet/tape onto your bookmark so that it covers the entire bookmark. When you are ready, turn your bookmark over so the unlined

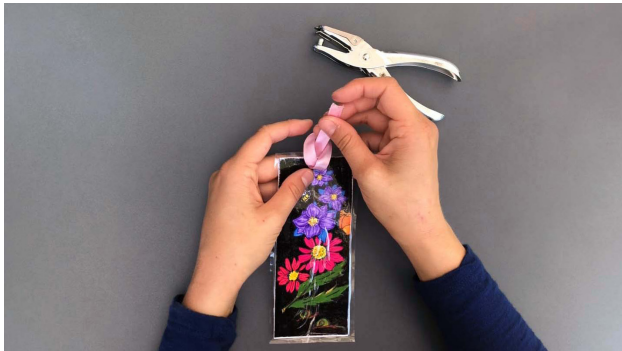
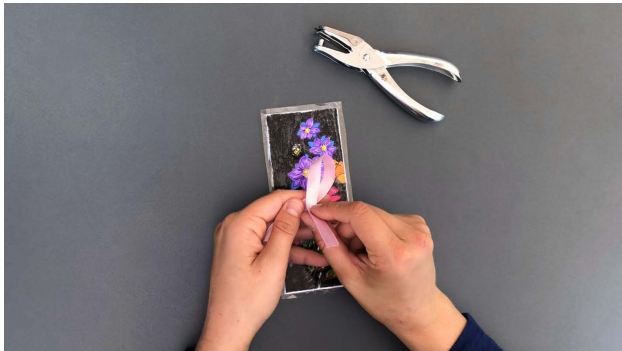
side is on top. Then peel the paper off of your second self-laminating sheet or cut another piece/s of tape and stick it to your bookmark, again covering the entire bookmark. If you have large borders of laminating plastic or tape around the edges of the bookmark, you can trim the edges.



6

Optional—To add a ribbon to the top of your bookmark, use a hole punch or pair of scissors to cut a hole towards the top of your bookmark. Then fold your ribbon in half and thread it through the hole. When you have pulled the ribbon half-way through the hole, stop and thread the

bottom edges of your ribbon through the loop that was created when you folded it in half. Then pull the edges of the ribbon through the loop to secure your ribbon to the bookmark.



*Put your bookmark in your favorite book, and use it as a reminder of all the beautiful and interesting things around you to explore throughout the school year!*

# Flower Facts

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Learn more about the pressed flowers included in your Norton Simon Museum Art Kit:



**Chrysanthemums** are autumn flowers because they bloom in early November! They come in a variety of colors including pink, red, lavender and yellow. The name chrysanthemum comes from the Greek words, chrysos meaning “gold,” and anthemum meaning “flower.”



**Larkspurs** bloom from April through September. Larkspur flowers grow on tall stalks that look like rockets! These stalks can grow to be almost 2 feet tall. Larkspurs come in shades of pink, white and dark blue.



**Cosmos Sulphureus** flowers are native to the Americas. They have long stems and usually grow to be about 1–3 feet tall but can potentially grow to be 6 feet tall! Their flowers bloom between June and September and love the sun. A fun fact about Cosmos Sulohureus flowers is that they attract butterflies.



**The Achillea** flower was named after Achilles, the Trojan War soldier who was known to treat soldiers’ wounds with plant extracts. Ground Achillea can be applied to cuts and burns as a salve. Achillea comes in a variety of colors including pink, red, yellow and white. It also attracts butterflies!