

INSPIRING IKEBANA

Ilse Beunen

Photography: Ben Huybrechts



stichting
kunstboek



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Christmas Nageire Arrangement



The typical Christmas colors, green, red and white are the inspiration behind this arrangement. I used a tall vase with classic cross fixation. Pruned and cleaned pine branches combined with rosehip branches are my favorite fresh material for Christmas. When you thin out pine needles, you create elegant tufts. The pine branch looks less busy, and the needles have space to stand straight. During Christmas and New Year, pine and evergreens are often used in traditional floristry, as well as Ikebana arrangements, because of their symbolic value. In many cultures, a pine tree is placed inside the house and decorated. In Japan, pine also is an essential item in New Year's decorations; however there is no decorated tree in the house. In Japan, pine symbolizes longevity and wards against misfortune and evil spirits. Most people and businesses place bamboo and pine decorations at the entrance porch. Many Ikebana schools have specific styles and designs for New Year arrangements and arranging with pine. Here I wanted to emphasize the grace of the pine branches and combine them with rose hips and Anthurium.

MATERIAL

Pinus, *Rose hip branches*, *Anthurium*, *Berzelia abrotanoides*



STEP BY STEP



1 Prepare a tall vase with a diameter of +/- 8 cm (3 inches)



2 Prepare two small sticks, one side cut straight and one side slanted. The size of the sticks should be slightly longer than the diameter of the vase.



4 Place the second stick under the first one. They should form a cross, and both should be firmly fixed in place.



5 Choose a long curved rose hip branch. Measure it and cut the end of the stem slanted.



6 Place the branch over the cross fixation, in the left back quadrant. The end of the stem should touch the inside of the vase.



7 Choose a pine branch and hold it in the position where you want to place it.



8 Prune away the excess pine needles until you end up with beautiful broom-like tips.



9 Cut the branch slanted to the desired length. Place the branch over the cross fixation in the right back quadrant.



10 Add one more pine branch to create volume.



11 The position of the branches in the vase.



12 One more curved long rose hip branch is added, its movement should start at the back along the left-hand side and continue towards the front. Place the first flower over the cross fixation towards the front.



13 Place four more Anthuriums in the arrangement, allow them to hang over the rim of the vase. I added Berzelia as well to soften the transition from vase to arrangement.