



The finished handmade blooms created at Lia's crêpe paper workshop

Behind the scenes



Lia Griffith
Paper flower expert
& TV demonstrator

Lia Griffith workshop

Papercraft inspirations and Mollie Makes got together to make paper flowers with Lia and find out more about her inspirations

Since we first encountered Lia Griffith and her wonderful talent for paper crafting, particularly flowers, she has appeared on Create & Craft TV in the UK and the Hallmark Channel Home & Family Show in the US – and that's just for starters! Both Lia's creative team and website have grown hugely and www.liagriffith.com is now a subscription-based site featuring hundreds of flower and home décor projects made with a range of materials, as well as an online

shop. The site has 10,000 members and continues to grow! When the US-based designer got in touch to say she was going to be in the neighbourhood, we jumped at the chance to meet her in person and enjoy an afternoon of expert tuition.

We met Lia at fantastic studio space, The Forge, in Bristol, along with a group from Mollie Makes magazine. She had come over to convert us to her bespoke range of luxury crêpe paper and guide us through the process of

making two of her superb paper flower projects – anemones and peonies. Despite assurances that it was impossible to make a bad paper flower using her templates and techniques, we were surprised at how good the results were – see the finished blooms above! We also asked Lia a few questions about her crafting...

You've made so many flowers in so many materials! How do you choose which blooms to create?
I think it's important to make something you love or that inspires you. I keep my eye on



Lia all ready to start the flower workshop



Just in time for spring – Lia's stunning daffodils



Tissue pom-pom blooms make great gift toppers

trends but tend to follow my heart. I'll take a walk around the rose gardens here in Portland, or look at the front yards in my neighbourhood. I'm also inspired by papers. A shimmering metallic paper might inspire me to make

rather than exquisite handmade products. I wanted to create a crêpe paper revolution, to create a line of extra-fine crêpe papers that everyone would enjoy using. I took my colour inspiration from the garden rather than the candy

My goal is to teach and inspire people to reignite their creativity!

a sumptuous chrysanthemum. Or my blush-coloured crêpe papers might inspire me to make a pretty peony. The great thing about making paper flowers is that I never run out of ideas!

Tell us about your crêpe paper!
I have always enjoyed working with crêpe paper, but it has had such a bad rep over the years. It's a great craft material that tends to be found in the classroom

shop. It has a 130% stretch so it can be twisted, stretched, curled and manipulated easily but still retains its structure well. Now we can confidently use crêpe paper for anything from wedding and home décor projects to, of course, stunning paper flowers!

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I love working with my team, a great bunch of super-talented



individuals. Each of them adds their unique touch, whether it's in the cute characters they create, the great videos they make for our online craft school, the amazing service that they give to our shop customers, or the incredible crafts they make to share with our website members. We are like a family and it brings me so much joy to walk into my studio and work alongside them every day.

I also *adore* sharing my designs with like-minded creatives. My goal has always been to teach and inspire people to reignite their creativity. I love getting feedback from those who had lost confidence in their abilities and have rediscovered their creative side through my designs and tutorials. There is no greater joy for me!

What exciting things has this year got in store for you?
Oh my goodness – so many fun things! We will be expanding our paper line to include a new colour palette of crêpe papers. We will do more paper kits and we will be publishing our first crêpe paper flowers book this spring. And, of course, we will continue to share two or three brand new DIY projects on the website every day!

Flowers for all

If you'd like to take your papercrafting creativity even further, sign up to Lia's website

Making a wide range of beautiful flowers and home décor with tissue, crêpe or even printer paper is much easier than you think! Lia's inspiring website provides step-by-step instructions, SVG files, printable templates and helpful videos for crafting all sorts of stunning makes. Head to www.liagriffith.com

to see all the amazing makes on show. As an exclusive offer for *Papercraft inspirations* readers, Lia is giving 20% off a year's membership to her website (\$44 instead of \$55). This includes all the downloads and the Craft School videos. Simply use the code **papercraft20** at check out!



