Frozen Flowers

As water freezes, oxygen is squeezed out of flowers, creating beautiful bubble trails (paths of oxygen trying to escape) and patterns. The ice gives a beautiful background for your flower photography.

A few simple tools:

- Container: Tupperware, metal or Pyrex container (wide and shallow will work well). Larger containers will take longer to freeze but will produce more intricate designs. You can also line the inside of a glass container with plastic, to make the flowers easier to remove.
- Water: Tap water will create a foggier image. Distilled water will create a clearer image.
- Light source: Window light, light pad, off camera flashes all work well.

Preparation:

To fully encase flowers in ice, it's best to build up the ice gradually; otherwise, the flowers may float to the top of any container, reducing the release of oxygen from the flowers. Arrange flowers face down in a few cm of water and put in freezer. This small amount of water will serve to anchor the flowers so that additional water can be added. Add incremental portions of water, freezing after each addition, until flowers are fully encased. But, try not to make the ice "too think" as it will be harder for light to pass through the frozen block.

Photography

When you're ready to photograph, remove the flowers from the freezer. The block of ice should begin to separate from the container in about 10 minutes or so. Gently tap the container and the ice should slide out. If the flowers contain an impression of the container's base, the surface can be "evened out" by rubbing a damp cloth over the imprint.

Light is the secret of great frozen flower photography!!! Put the ice block near a light source: strongly lit window, light pad, off camera flashes, etc. The light will penetrate the ice and the flowers to create great compositions. Allowing a lot of light onto the subject will allow you to use a lower ISO and a greater depth of field (higher f stop). Experiment with the light direction (straight on, angled, etc) to reveal trails and patterns. Experiment with different lenses (zoom, macro, fisheye) for varying compositions. Capture the entire flower, or just intricate details.

Have Fun

- Try different combinations of flowers.
- Try freezing flowers in ice cube trays.
- Try different containers. Each different choice will provide different resultant bubbles and bubble trails.
- Break or refreeze the ice.

Some Inspiration

For excellent examples of frozen flower photography, look at the work of Mo Devlin at:

https://modevlin.zenfolio.com/frozenflowers .