



Make art
with the Art Gallery of New South Wales



Do you love to make things?

Artists love to create.

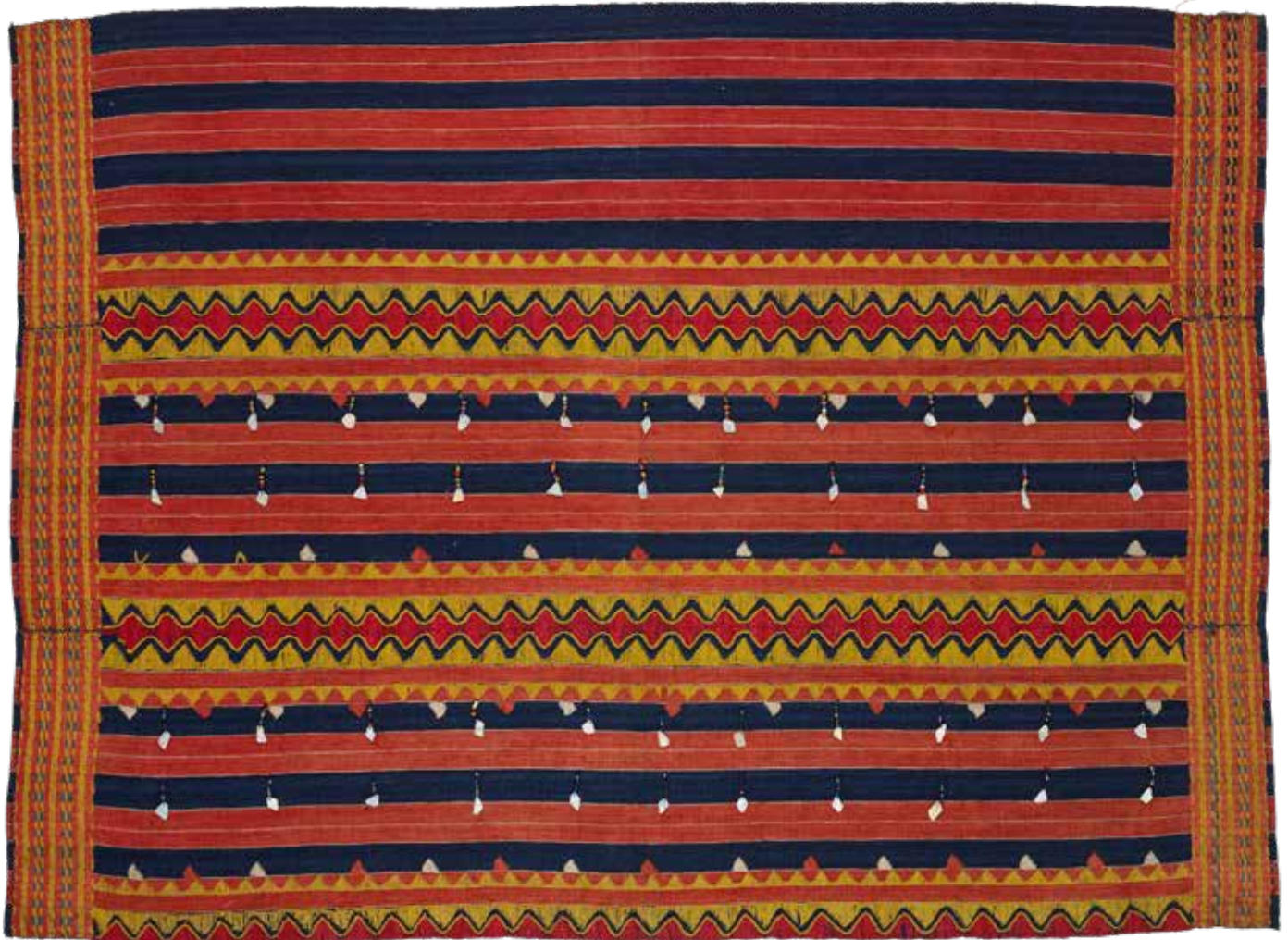
They make drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and other things for us to look at. Some artists design and make textiles using threads and fibres woven together to make special cloths or tapestries.

Explore some of these woven textiles from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, become an artist and create your own wonderful woven artwork.



Wonderful weaving

Woven textiles are created by interlacing threads together, usually on a device called a loom. Simple looms can be made from cardboard or even paper plates like the ones in this art pack. 'Warp' threads are threaded on the loom first, then 'weft' yarns are interwoven between them.



Get creative

Create your own wonderful woven artwork. **Remember**, you are the artist so you can decide the colours and materials you want to include, and what your artwork will be used for when it's finished.

opposite: Unknown artist, Indonesia
Tapis Jabung early 20th century (detail)
silk, cotton or bast fibres, gold- and silver-wrapped threads, sequins, ribbon, natural dyes, warp-faced plain weave, supplementary warp weaving, couching, appliqué
Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Dr John Yu and Dr George Soutter 2006

above: Kalinga, Philippines
Wraparound skirt (kain) 20th century
cotton, shells, beads; brocade
Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Dr John Yu and Dr George Soutter 2005

cover: Unknown artist, Laos
Cloth with banded design of stylised animals late 1800s – early 1900s (detail)
silk, aniline dyes, metal-wrapped threads; continuous supplementary weft weaving
Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Nomadic Rug Traders 2003
Photos: AGNSW

You will need:

- Paper plate
- Wool
- Plastic needle
- Scissors
- Your imagination!



What to do



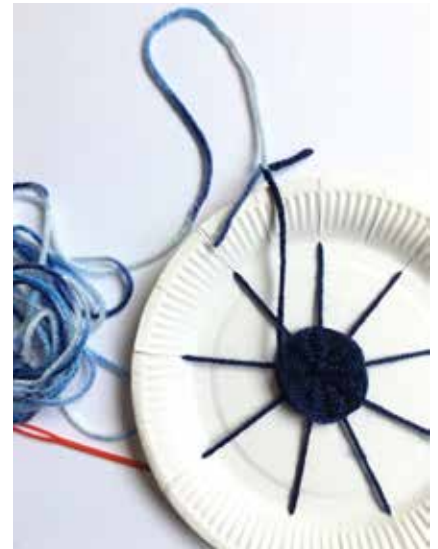
1

Cut slits in the ribbed edge of the paper plate along the marked lines. You can cut each one or every second one like image above. Pull the yarn through the slits, moving from one side to the other so it looks like bicycle spokes.



2

When you have enough spokes (it must be an odd number to work) tie the loose thread up at the back. Then thread the wool at the front and start going over and under, round and round.



3

To start a new colour, tie a new piece of wool to the old one and keep threading the needle over and under the spokes.



4

When you reach the edge of the plate, tie a knot around one of the spokes and cut off the end. You could leave your weaving on the plate and decorate the plate.



5

Or you can cut the threads at the back and then tie them together in pairs to secure the edges of your circle. You will have one left over, so tie it around the edge.



6

You can leave your woven circle flat and use it as a decoration or mat, or you can curve it into a bowl to store something small and precious.

What to do



You will need:

Card loom
White thread
Plastic needle
Wool
Fabric strips
Feathers
Scissors
Sticky tape



1

Place the white thread through the first slit on the card loom and leave a good length to sticky tape it down on the back.



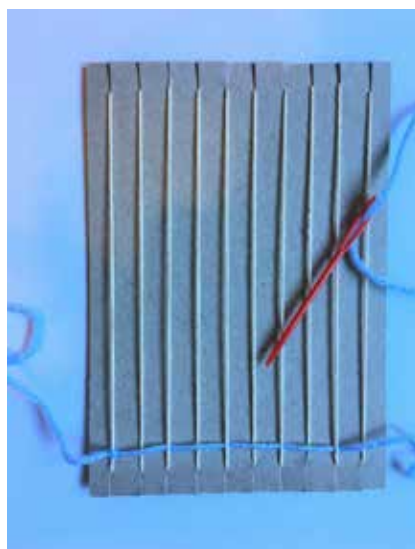
2

Pull the thread down the front to the first slit at the bottom and thread it through to the back. Pull the thread across to the next slit, bring it through to the front and pull it to the top. Repeat the process along all of the slits.



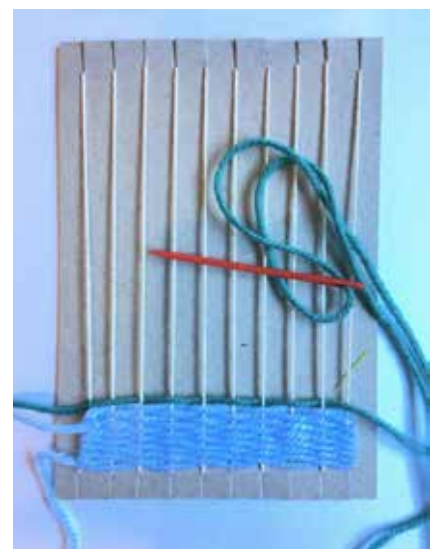
3

When you have wrapped the thread through all the slits, sticky tape the end to the cardboard. These white threads are called the warp.



4

Tie a piece of wool to the end thread and pull it under and over all the warp threads to the other side. Go over and under the warp threads in the opposite direction.



5

Keep going over and under, reversing the pattern for each row, and push each row down. To add new colours, tie the yarn to the end warp thread when you finish a row.



6

You can weave fabric or feathers in using the same technique of going under and over the warp threads. It's a good idea to use wool either side to help the fabric and feathers stay in place.



7

Keep going all the way up your card loom, under and over in opposite directions until it becomes too hard to thread any more wool between the warp threads.



8

When you are finished, carefully lift the loops of warp thread off the slits – you can use the needle to help. Gently push the wool so the loops move into your weaving. Tie the ends of the warp thread into the woven wool.



9

You could leave your woven design with the extra wool and fabric hanging down.



10

Or you could tie any loose ends into your design by knotting or threading them with the needle into the weaving.



11

There you are, a wonderful woven textile of your very own!