

# Textiles: Cherokee Basket Weaving

Ruby Red Workshop  
February 11<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Educator: Salix Dezrea Renan, [weave.salix@gmail.com](mailto:weave.salix@gmail.com)

## **Pricing:**

Museum Friend: \$130/ Member: \$135 / Student: \$135 / Non-Member: \$160

*\*Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-50.*

## **Class Description:**

Students will learn the history of Cherokee basket making materials from pre-European contact through to contemporary Oklahoma Cherokee basket weaving. Following Sarah H. Hill in her book, Weaving New Worlds: Southeastern Cherokee Women and Their Basketry, we will meet some notable weavers and touch on different material traditions. The DAM Indigenous Arts of North America has a small selection of basketry from the Original Peoples of the Southeastern US and their descendants, and this class will both expose students to more examples of these traditions and give them an opportunity to weave their own round reed Oklahoma style Cherokee basket.

## **What to Expect:**

Students will be given a presentation providing a close look at Cherokee basket weaving traditions and weavers, students are welcome to move around as needed during lecture and discussion. The instructor will spend 20-30 minutes providing a demo of starting, shaping/forming, and finishing a basket, and will begin work on single-walled baskets with students. The instructor will provide step-by-step instruction to the group, followed with one-on-one support. Each student will be able to finish at least one single-walled basket and begin work on a double-walled basket during the course of this class.

## **Timeline:**

### **Week 1**

- Lecture contextualizing this class within Denver's American Indian history and what has happened on this land, to its ancestral caretakers, the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute. The lecture will include Cherokee basket weaving cultural history, as well as contemporary Cherokee weavers, and Q&A as time allows. Instructor will discuss materials, demo beginning of process, and begin baskets as time allows.

### **Week 2**

- Continue weaving demo to include forming/shaping basket, and finishing. Begin/continue step-by-step and individual instruction. Demo double-walled baskets technique, and students ready can start double-walled basket.

### **Week 3**

- Finish single-walled baskets, demo double-walled technique, ongoing individual support.

**Week 4**

- Finish all baskets.

**Class Cancellation Policy:**

If a class or workshop needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a “make-up” day will be scheduled on a FRIDAY or SATURDAY as the educator’s schedule allows.

**Materials:**

***Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$30-50.***

We partner with [Meininger’s](#) for local shopping, purchase a kit of your required materials online for in-store pickup, or purchase the below items individually.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Round reed, natural color, 1.75 mm	1 lb coil	<a href="#">Round Reed #2, 1.75 mm</a> Or <a href="#">Round Reed #2, 1.75 mm</a>
*Rit liquid dye, any color	1 bottle	<a href="#">Rit All-Purpose Liquid Dye, 8 oz</a>

\* *Optional materials*

**Educator:**

Salix is a 35-year-old two-spirit, multiracial creator and educator of Muscogee/Cherokee descent. Salix has had baskets on display at the Evergreen Center for the Arts, and they teach basket weaving for Colorado Native Org's Native cultural night. You can also find them at events such as the Harvest of All First Nations Corn Festival, and áyA Con Denver.

<https://www.instagram.com/salix.weaves/>

**Local Denver Area Materials Resources**

**Fine Art materials**

Meininger Art Material\*  
Guiry’s

**General Art & Craft materials**

Michaels  
Walmart  
ReCreative

**Fibers**

Fancy Tiger  
Jo-Ann Fabrics  
Blazing Star Ranch

**Reuse/Second-hand materials**

ARC

Goodwill  
Habitat for Humanity Restore  
Gone for Good  
ReCreative  
K&K Surplus  
Queen City Salvage

### **Tools & Hardware**

Home Depot  
Lowe's  
Habitat for Humanity Restore

K&K Surplus

### **Sculpting materials**

Reynolds Advanced Materials  
Western Sculpting Supply

### **Online Resources**

DickBlick  
Paradise Fibers  
Revolution Fibers

\* The DAM partners with Meininger's for local shopping. A kit of your required materials can be purchased online for pick-up in store.

## **Ruby Room Policies**

### **Cleanup:**

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage in the equipment closet. Students will also need to take home all their own materials after each class. Make sure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

### **Classroom Access:**

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours and open studio hours. Please contact the Manager of Creative and Public Engagement, Sarah Rockett, if you need to arrange entrance to the Ruby Room outside of those hours – [srockett@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:srockett@denverartmuseum.org).

### **Material Usage:**

#### **Approved Processes & Materials**

- All materials that are non-toxic and non-flammable
- Chalk/charcoal/compressed powder-based drawing materials
- Loose powder-based drawing/painting materials – i.e. powdered graphite, powdered pigment
- Loose powder-based 3D materials – i.e. plaster, alginate
- Clay – air drying only
- Oil paints & oil medium
- Adhesives
- Odorless mineral spirits – in small amounts
- Acetone – in small amounts
- Hot plates – for encaustic or use w/ wax-based process
- Hot glue & hot glue guns

**Please ask if you are unsure about using certain materials in the workshop.**

### **Restricted Processes & Materials:**

- Aerosols
  - No spray paint onsite

- Fixatives and finishing sprays can be used outside with the use of a drop cloth.
- Saws/Wood cutting
- Organic materials
- Any materials that off-gas or produce a pungent smell will require prior approval.

### **Flammable Materials:**

STORAGE: Any flammable materials left in the classroom must be stored in the flammable materials cabinet when not in use. This includes all aerosol products, mineral spirits, acetone, etc.

DISPOSAL: Please use the flammables disposal container to dispose of all flammable materials or rags, paper towels, etc. that have been saturated with flammable materials. Do not put these items in the regular trash can or down the sink. This includes materials such as mineral spirits, acetone, paint thinner, oil paint, etc.

### **Disposal of Viscous Materials:**

- **Paint:** Scrape or wipe large amounts of paint into the trash can. Remaining paint may be washed down the sink. Make sure that paint does not sit and dry on the bottom of the sink. Use sponges to wash out the sink, and run water for 1-2 minutes after paint disposal.
- **Plaster:** Dispose of wet plaster into the trash can. Leave container to dry, and crack remaining plaster into the trash once it is dry. Hands and tools used for plaster may be washed in the sink with water running 1-2 minutes after washing.
- **Clay:** Remove wet/dry clay from hands and tools as much as possible before washing in sink. Run water in sink for 1-2 minutes following washing.

### **Safety:**

Teachers and students are responsible for practicing safe work habits at all times, as improper use of tools could cause injury. Please work intelligently, safely, and follow all safety guidelines.

- Teachers and students are only to use equipment and tools that they either already know how to use or have been instructed how to use. If you have a question about how to operate any equipment, please ask!
- Work smart, pace yourself, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Safety glasses, safety goggles, nitrile gloves, and dust masks are available upon request.