

Textiles: Soft Sculptures

Ruby Red Workshop
March 11th – April 1st, 2025
Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Educator: Holly Nordeck, hnordeckstudio@gmail.com

Pricing:

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

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-80.*

Class Description:

Explore and experiment with various fiber-art techniques by transforming two-dimensional fabric drawings and paintings into three-dimensional, plushie soft sculptures inspired by nature, abstraction and the DAM's contemporary Textile Arts and Fashion collection.

Students will walk through and learn about the collections, focusing on textile work that utilizes drawing and painting elements. Through the exploration of the DAM's collections, students will learn how expansive textile and fiber arts can be, inspiring them to make their own fiber art. The class will focus on simple and accessible techniques. Students will learn how to paint on fabric by using fabric paint and paint markers, and be inspired to make their own shapes, colors, patterns, etc. Students will then learn how to transform their two-dimensional fabric pieces into three-dimensional soft sculptures by learning simple sewing techniques and skills. This is an experimental approach to soft sculpture where students are free to explore, play and try new techniques all while being introduced to the basics of fabric painting, drawing, and sewing.

What to Expect:

The first day of class will be informational and learning based, we will walk through the galleries and view a presentation. The rest of the day-to-day class experience will comprise of art demos and creating soft sculpture pieces. This is a primarily a project-based approach where experimentation in painting, drawing, and sewing will be encouraged.

Students can choose to make one large soft sculpture or two medium soft sculpture pieces.

Some knowledge of hand-sewing is encouraged but not required. Students must be comfortable holding a needle and thread or utilizing fabric glue.

Students should have an interest in painting and drawing on fabric and understand that this is the primary focus of the class.

Timeline:

Week 1

- Intro/presentation about teacher and soft sculpture techniques, history, etc.
- Explore collection in galleries, inspiration sources, beginning sketching, drawing, and documenting in classroom or gallery for inspiration for soft sculpture

Week 2

- Finish Sketches and drawing on paper
- Teacher demonstration about fabric drawing/painting
- Students begin sketching and fabric
- Students can read up on resources, etc. as they might have to wait for fabric paint to dry in between painting and drawing layers

Week 3

- Students finish drawing and painting on fabric
- Teacher demo into hand sewing techniques
- Students begin sewing, stuffing, and adorning soft sculpture

Week 4

- Students finish sewing, stuffing and adding details to piece
- If time, students share out their finished pieces with the class

Class Make-up Day 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 \$50-80. 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
Mosaiz fabric markers	1 set	Mosaiz Fabric Markers
Paint markers	1 set	Posca Paint Markers
Thread	1 white spool, 1 black spool	All Purpose Polyester Thread
Crewel needles	2-3	Crewel Embroidery Needles, size 9
Soft sculpture needles	1 set	Singer Doll Hand Needles
Graphite pencils	2-3	Up to you!
Erasers	2-3	Up to you!
Masking tape	1 roll	Scotch General Purpose Masking Tape
Fabric paint, various colors	1 set	Jacquard Textile Color Set
Fabric glue	1 bottle	Aleene’s Fabric Fusion Adhesive
Acrylic paint brushes	1 assorted pack	Paint Brush Set for Acrylic Painting
9” x 12” sketchbook	1	Spiral Bound Sketch Book or up to you!

*Poly-Fil, muslin fabric, and tracing paper will be supplied for you.

Educator:

Holly Nordeck currently works and lives in Golden, CO. She graduated from Colorado State University with a BFA and minor in Art Business in 2016, her visual art has exhibited at Lincoln Center (Fort Collins), Arvada Center for the Arts (Arvada), StoreRoom (Denver), and Bell Projects (Denver). Nordeck has worked in cultural institutions since 2016, her focus is producing participatory events in collaboration with Colorado creatives. She is experienced in event production, creative consulting, public engagement experiences, and art focused facilitation. <https://www.holly-nordeck.com/>

Local Denver Area Materials Resources

Fine Art materials

Meininger Art Material*
Guiry's

ReCreative
K&K Surplus
Queen City Salvage

General Art & Craft materials

Michaels
Walmart
ReCreative

Tools & Hardware

Home Depot
Lowe's
Habitat for Humanity Restore
K&K Surplus

Fibers

Fancy Tiger
Jo-Ann Fabrics
Blazing Star Ranch

Sculpting materials

Reynolds Advanced Materials
Western Sculpting Supply

Reuse/Second-hand materials

ARC
Goodwill
Habitat for Humanity Restore
Gone for Good

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.

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.