

Textiles: Off-Loom Weaving

Ruby Red Workshop
February 19th – March 26th, 2025
Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Educator: Etta Sandry, etta.sandry@gmail.com

Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$240/ Member: \$255 / Student: \$255 / Non-Member: \$300

**Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$50-70.*

Class Description:

In this 6-week class, students will be introduced to weaving beyond the loom through techniques including book, card, and tapestry weaving. Students will learn how to construct simple, portable, “looms” using easy-to-find materials that can be adapted to any circumstance. Through each technique, students will learn about the basic elements of woven cloth and explore the design variations and possibilities offered by each weaving approach. The course will engage with the many examples of woven works from the museum’s Indigenous Arts of North America and Textile and Fashion Collections – many of which were created using similar techniques to those we will be using in class – as well as the work of contemporary weaving artists such as Sheila Hicks, Karolina Gnatowski, and Colorado-based artist Steven Frost.

What to Expect:

This class will include a mix of in-class demonstration, skill sharing, and making as well as group gallery visits and discussion. The compact and mobile formats of the looms will allow us to take our work beyond the classroom to draw inspiration from the galleries and the museum’s architecture while connecting with themes of space, place, and portability. Through observing works in the collection and learning new skills, we will take time to reflect on how weaving techniques are engaged across cultures and textile traditions, our positions as learners and artists, and our own relationships with textile histories. Students will leave the class with three sample weavings along with their handmade loom components.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Introductions + Book Weaving

- Introductions and class overview
- Lecture/demonstration: Intro to weaving
- Demonstration/activity: Tapestry weaving on a book loom
- Demonstration/Activity: Basic weave structures
- For next time: bring backstrap materials

Week 2 – Backstrap Weaving

- Re-introductions, questions/reflections from last class
- Demonstration/activity: Cutting off and finishing book weavings (15 mins)
- Slide lecture: Contemporary weaving artists + Backstrap Weaving
- Demonstration/Activity: Setting up the backstrap loom

- For next time: optional reading

Week 3 – Backstrap Weaving + Gallery Visit

- Gallery visits to woven textile objects
- Demonstration/activity: Weaving on a backstrap loom in museum space
- For next week: Bring materials for card weaving

Week 4 – Card Weaving

- Lecture/demonstration: Tablet weaving
- Prepare cards and card looms
- For next week: Optional reading

Week 5 – Card Weaving + Gallery Visit

- Welcome and gather
- Group reading discussion
- Demonstration/activity: Card weaving
- Gallery visit

Week 6 – Card Weaving + Conclusion

- Card weaving in museum space
- Return to classroom, finishing card weavings
- Share work and wrap up

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 \$50-70.

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
Hard-cover book, novel size or larger (Class 1)	1	Up to you!
Tapestry needles (Class 1)	2 needles	Plastic Weaving Needles
Comb or fork (Class 1)	1	Hair pick
Skeins of medium weight (worsted, aran, or DK) yarn in different colors (Class 1)	2 skeins of different colors	Cascade Yarns 220
Cotton warp yarn (Class 2)	2 colors	Maysville Cotton Warp
Weft materials such as cut fabric strips, paper, plastic bags, and other found materials (Class 2)	Assortment	Up to you!
3 ft. length of rope or cut fabric strip (Class 2)	1	Up to you!
Playing cards (Class 4)	1 deck	Up to you!

*Many different materials can be used for weaving. On the first day, the instructor will discuss material options and where weaving materials, and weft yarns can be sourced. The class number noted with each material indicates the first day that you should bring it to class.

Educator:

Etta Sandry is an artist, educator, and facilitator currently based in Boulder, Colorado. Rooted in weaving, her interdisciplinary work is situated in the expanded material practices field between craft, contemporary art, and creative research. She has exhibited her work in the United States and Canada and was the 2022 Experimental Weaver in Residence at the Unstable Design Lab at the University of Colorado, Boulder where she now conducts research as a PhD student. Etta completed her MFA in the Fibre & Material Practices program at Concordia University where she also held positions teaching fiber structures and critical thinking & writing. She has over ten years of experience working as an organizer and administrator in arts communities, including roles as a board member at the artist-run centre articule in Montreal and as a volunteer staff in ACRE Residency's fiber studio in Wisconsin.

www.ettasandry.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.