

Textiles: Tapestry Weaving

Ruby Red Workshop

Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

August 28 – October 2, 2025

Educator: Elizabeth Morisette, elmorisette@gmail.com

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this 6-week class, students will be introduced to the techniques of tapestry weaving while playing with texture and material. They will learn the basic elements of weaving (the loom, warp, and weft) and how to set up a frame loom for hand weaving. Instruction will cover the fundamental weaving patterns and tapestry design techniques, such as plain weave, color block design, and methods for creating texture in the weave. The course will engage with the many examples of woven works from the Denver Art Museum's Indigenous Arts of North America and Textile and Fashion Collections as well as the work of contemporary weaving artists. Through this class, students will gain a deeper understanding of the textiles that we engage with in our everyday clothing, homes, and lives and become familiar with one of our oldest technologies: weaving.

Pricing:

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

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

Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum 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.

Accessibility Statement:

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email Access@DenverArtMuseum.org at least ten

(10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

Materials:

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials spend is \$30-50.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before the first day of class.

Item	Quantity	Suggested Link
Blunt tapestry needles, recommend size 13	2	Steel Yarn Needles
Cotton carpet warp yarn or similar	1 tube	Maysville Cotton Warp
Medium weight (worsted or DK) yarn in different colors (1 ball/color) OR A pack of assorted yarns *Wool or wool-like yarns are recommended (not cotton)	2 skeins	Lion Brand Wool-Ease Yarn OR Harrisville Designs Yarn Packs
Plastic pick comb or fork	1	Conair Large Hair Pick
9-inch painting stretcher bars	2	Blick Standard Stretcher Bars and Keys, 9-inch
12-inch painting stretcher bars	2	Blick Standard Stretcher Bars and Keys, 12-inch
7/8-inch wire nails	1 package	Zinc Wire Nails, 7/8-inch

Scrap cardboard (8.5" x 11" or smaller)	1 piece	Up to you!
Cut fabric strips, paper, and found materials	Assorted	Up to you! See below list for re-use and second hand materials shops.

**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. Please be sure to bring the stretcher bars and nails on the first day.*

What to Expect:

The first half of the class will focus on loom set-up, weave basics, and skill building. This class will offer a mix of hands-on making, art viewing, discussion, and designing. Students will view images of the work of contemporary tapestry weavers and visit DAM galleries to look at works from the museum's collection as inspiration for designing a final tapestry project. As students develop their skills, they will be encouraged to experiment with the materials they use in their weavings, using non-traditional wefts and found materials. Students will leave the class with one sample weaving, one final piece, and a tapestry loom for future weaving. Students do not need any prior knowledge for this course.

Timeline:

Week 1 – Introductions & Basics

- Introductions and community agreements
- Slide lecture/demonstration: What is tapestry weaving?
- Demonstration/activity: Building the tapestry loom
- For next time: Bring your completed loom

Week 2 – Beginning to Weave

- Re-introductions, questions/reflections from last class
- Demonstration/Activity: Warping the tapestry loom
- Demonstration/Activity: Basic weave structures

Week 3 – Practice & Inspiration

- Welcome and gather
- Slide lecture: Contemporary Weaving Artists
- Demonstration/Activity: Weaving shapes with color blocking
- For next time: bring a found or unusual material to weave with

Week 4 – Playing with Texture

- Demonstration/Activity: Texturing techniques
- Gallery visits to woven textile objects
- Demonstration/Activity: Finishing Techniques
- For next time: Begin thinking about final weaving

Week 5 – Project

- Designing and beginning final weaving
- Review techniques as needed
- Re-warp looms
- For next time: Finish setting up loom and begin weaving if you can

Week 6 – Project

- Welcome and gather
- Project weaving
- Share work and wrap-up

Educator:

Elizabeth Morisette is a graduate of NCSU College of Design and received an MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. She has been exhibiting her weavings and sculptures throughout the country for 30 years. Her work has been featured in American Craft Magazine, Hyperallergic, The Denver Post, and the New York Times.

As a Fiber Artist living in Fort Collins, Colorado, her work focuses on using the leftovers from our society and making them into art using classical Fiber techniques such as basket making and weaving. These works are often surrounding a theme having to do with environmentalism and social constructs. Connecting art and community is an important aspect of Morisette's career. She has worked as an Artist in Residence teaching classes for the Maryland State Arts Council, The Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore, Elderhaus Adult Care, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, New Belgium Brewery, The Museum of Art Fort Collins and The Denver Art Museum.

<https://elmorisette.com/>

WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES

About:

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. You can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

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 on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – MDeBakker@DenverArtMuseum.org

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM! For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at SalesTeam@DenverArtMuseum.org or (720) 913-0130.