



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Lesson Plan: #NoyesArtatHome

## Macramé Wall Art Project

### Overview:

The first **macramé** weavers are believed to have been Arab artists who lived in the 13th century. They finished tapestries and veils with decorative knots. The craft traveled around Europe through trade and eventually sailors took up macrame in their off time. When the boat arrived in port they traded their macrame art for other goods around the world. Macrame grew to be more than just decorative: artists made hammocks, belts, and bags by tying rope into square knots. Modern day macrame is heavily influenced by its resurgence in the 1970s. Jewelry, wall hangings, clothing, and table cloths were made using the macrame style during this time. Today, other materials such as shells, bones, and gems are woven into a piece to add texture or to create a focal point.

### Definition:

**Macramé:** The art of tying decorative knots using cord, string, or yarn.

### Project Description:

Weave a beautiful tapestry out of found materials.

### Supplies:

- Discarded fabric
- An old beach towel works perfectly!
- Dowel or stick
- Scissors



*Macrame Purse*, (England), early 17th century; metallic yarns  
Museum purchase from Au Panier Fleuri, McNeil, and General  
Acquisitions Endowment Funds; 1989-30-1  
Collection of Cooper Hewitt  
<http://cprhw.tt/o/2DuQz/>

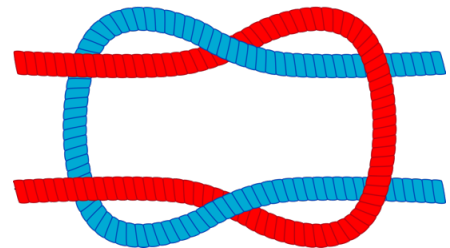


## Steps:

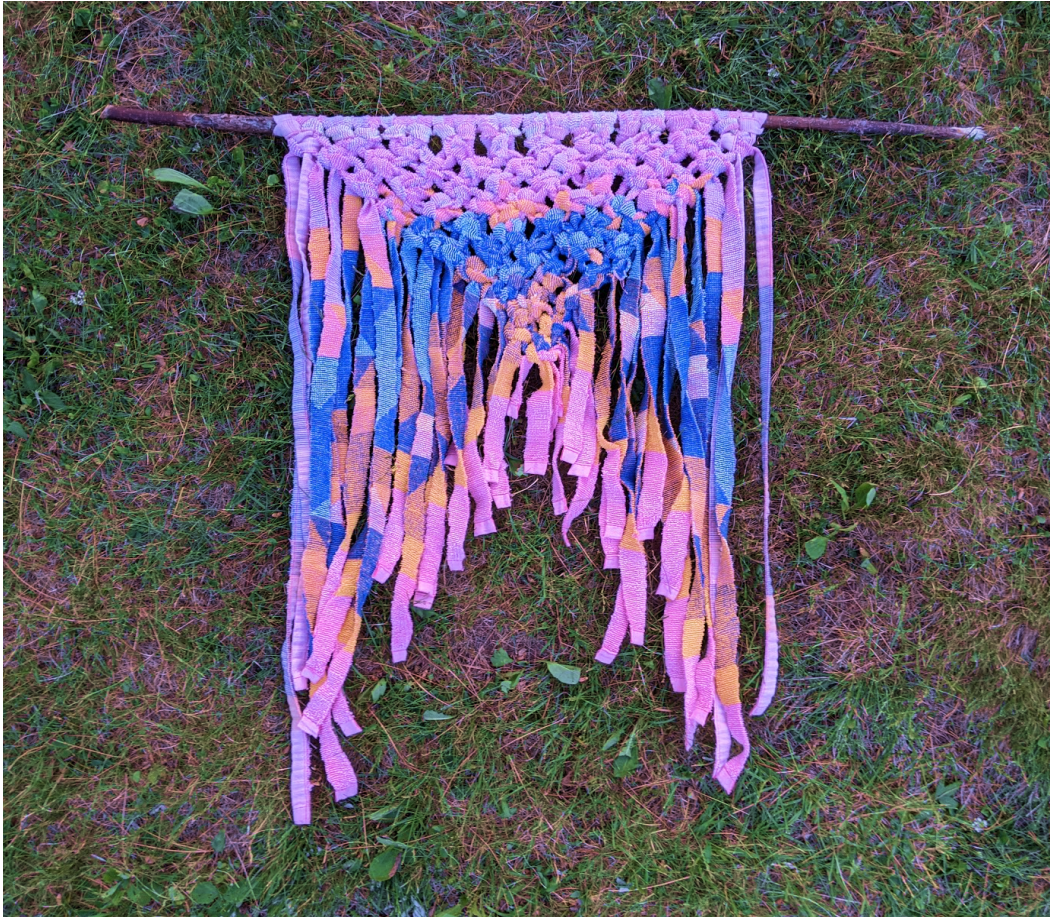
1. Find fabric that is at least 63 inches in length and 20 inches wide.
  - A retired beach towel is perfect! Look for colors that you want to include in the final piece.
2. Cut 20 strips of fabric that are about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch wide.
  - If your fabric is 20 inches wide, you will have some left over, but it is always good to have more than enough material.
3. Fold the fabric strips in half and place the stick or dowel on top. Pull the loose ends of the fabric through the loop and secure tightly around the rod.
4. Once all 20 lengths have been tied on, we are ready to make the **macrame** design.
  - In this tutorial, we are using repurposed fabric!



5. Tie the first knot using the four strands on the left. Tie a **square knot** using the outside two strands around the inside two strands. Use the saying, “right over left, left over right,” to guide you.
  - A **square knot** is tied by placing the left most strand (red, pictured right) over the middle two and under the fourth strand. After, the fourth strand is looped under the middle two and pulled through the hole created by the first strand.
  - Repeat this knot all the way down the row, working from left to right.
6. The next row of square knots will start after the first 2 strands and end before the last 2 to create a “V” shaped design.



7. Repeat step 7 until one grouping of 4 strands remains. Tie one square knot.
8. Hang your new art work on an empty wall or door. You have transformed recycled fabric into a beautiful craft!



**Share pictures of your artwork with us!**

Don't forget to use [#NoyesArtatHome](https://www.instagram.com/NoyesArtatHome) and tag us with your completed project! We will be posting work by community artists on our social media pages.

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<http://noyesmuseum.org/> <https://www.artsgarageac.com/>  
Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



Funding for the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University is provided in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.