

## Channing Hansen and Fiber Arts

<b>Essential Question</b>	Can you weave an art piece?
<b>Grade</b>	Kindergarten
<b>Time</b>	40–60 minutes
<b>Art Concepts</b>	Knitting, weaving, yarn, fiber arts, warp, weft, vertical, horizontal, under, over, pattern, loom, fiber arts, algorithm
<b>Materials</b>	Markers or colored pencils, wrapping paper or colored construction paper (three different colors or patterns), white glue or glue stick, scissors
<b>Artwork in Focus</b>	<a href="#"><u>Algo 54 4.2, 2015 by Channing Hansen</u></a>
<b>Talking about Art</b>	When you look at Channing Hansen’s artwork, what does it remind you of?

When art is made of fabric, **yarn**, thread, or rope it is called **fiber arts**. Does his art remind you of something you own, or something in your house? How does it make you feel? The yarn might remind you of a cozy blanket or a soft sweater. It could also remind you of something in nature, such as a spider web!

How is it different from other art you have seen? Because Hansen uses an **algorithm**—a set of rules that are followed—to design his pieces, they look like stretched, semi-see-through blankets with holes. The design is more like a math problem than a free-form creation. You can see through the fiber of the yarn to the wooden structure underneath.

Is it like a painting or a drawing? How is it different? It is not like a painting or a drawing because it is not flat. It is more like a sculpture because of the texture of the yarn. It feels like it exists in our space like a blanket or a sweater does.

When you look at this artwork, what are you curious about? Why do you think it is unraveling or hole-y? What does that mean to you?

Hansen doesn't *just knit*. He shears the wool, spins the yarn, dyes the yarn, and *then* he knits it! He is interested in the whole process. *He knits paintings*. They are not sweaters or hats. They are meant to be looked at like a painting.

To knit, you use knitting needles. Do you know anyone who knits?

## Making Art

Today we are not going to knit. We are going to **weave**, which is another fiber art, so you can get the feeling of how separate pieces (in this case, paper) can come together to form an object.

1. Pick one piece of construction paper to be your **loom**—which is what you weave on. Knitters use knitting needles. Weavers use a loom.
2. Fold the “loom” in half. Make four cuts up from the folded end and stop before the end of the paper.
3. Open your loom up and flatten it out.
4. Cut another piece of construction paper into four to six strips.
5. Cut a piece of wrapping paper or another color of construction paper into four to six strips.
6. Now we are going to weave! You will alternate (go back and forth) between the two colors (or **patterns**) of paper. Start with one color and go **over** and **under** the pieces of the loom. The **vertical** part of the loom is called the **warp**. The pieces that go over and under are called the **weft**. Glue the two ends of the weft to the loom after you weave them together.
7. Now use your other paper strip. This time, start under and then go over. Glue the ends down.
8. Keep alternating your colors to create a pattern, such as blue, red, blue, red, blue, red. A pattern is something that repeats: like a color, shape or design.

9. Your weaving is done when the warp and the weft are full. Make sure all the ends of the strips of paper are glued to the loom.
10. If you want, you can add a pattern using the colored pencils, markers, or crayons.

## Reflection

Look at your weaving. Is there a pattern? Say the colors that create the pattern.

Do you have anything in your house that is woven or knit? How is knitting different from weaving?

## Curriculum Connections Literature Connections

Read *Charlie Needs a Cloak* by Tomie dePaola to learn more about weaving with wool. Has anyone ever made you a special piece of clothing that you cherished?

### California Arts Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

K.VA:Cr1.2: Make art or design with various art materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity.  
K.VA:Cr2.1: Experiment with various materials and tools to explore personal interests in a work of art or design.

### Common Core State Standards English Language Arts

SL.K.4: Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

### Common Core State Standards Math

K.MD.B.3: Classify objects into given categories; count the numbers of objects in each category and sort the categories by count. K.G.A.1: Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.

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