



Think you need expensive equipment to weave? Look again! Many artists use “non-traditional” materials to make art. One example is this piece from August Ventimiglia, from his series called *Borrowed Lines* and is composed of pages from a popular mythology in which text that was underlined by previous owners has been cut out leaving just the lines. The artist then wove the strips of the cut pages together, creating what looks like a hanging tapestry.

August Ventimiglia, *Borrowed Lines*, from *The Odyssey*, 2017, cut paperback books, ink and graphite, 16 1/4 x 16 1/4 in., The Henry Melville Fuller Acquisition Fund.

Activity: Cardboard Loom Weaving - Create a mini tapestry using a homemade loom.

Materials:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Yarn, ribbon, or twine

Directions:

- Cut your cardboards into a rectangular shape
- Cut evenly spaced slits in one end of the cardboard, with about ½ inch of space in between each
- Repeat on the other end of the cardboard, creating a loom
- Cut a long length of yarn
- Tuck one end of the yarn through the top left slit in the loom, leaving several inches of extra yarn hanging down the back of the loom
- Pull the yarn straight down to tuck into the lower left slit in the loom
- On the back of the loom, pull the yarn diagonally upwards to tuck into the next top slit of the loom
- On the front of the loom, pull the yard down straight to the second lower slit in the loom
- Repeat until the yarn has gone through all slits and has created straight rows over the front of the loom. Tie the two end pieces together in the back of the loom to secure.
- Cut another piece of yarn. This one does not have to be as long as your first piece.
- Hold your loom so the loom yarn lines are vertical. Take your new piece of yard and place it under the first vertical piece of loom yarn, and over the next. Repeat going over and under until you have reached the end of the row and are at the edge of the loom.
- Start a new row beneath the first one. If you ended the top row by going under the loom yarn, start the next by going over. If you ended by going over, start by going under.
- Repeat making rows until you have reached the end of this piece of yarn; tuck the extra yarn around the back of the loom.

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- When beginning a new color, wrap a few extra inches of yard around the back of the loom, then start a new row, making sure you are starting by going over if the previous row was under, or under if the previous row was over.
- Continue adding yarn this way until you have most of the loom filled. Tuck any extra pieces around the back of the loom.
- Turn the loom over and cut the loom yarn pieces. Trim these to about 1 inch and secure by tying them in knots with the pieces of yarn next to them.
- Trim the excess pieces of horizontal yarn and secure them by tying them to the pieces of yard next to them, either horizontal or vertical pieces. Trim closer to the knot if desired.



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