

A GUIDE FOR ALL AGES

Larry Weyand

*Peeling the Sticker Off an Overripe
Pear*





Who is Larry?

Larry Weyand is an artist who creates **performance art** and **textile art**. They* spent their childhood living near Montreal, Quebec and Biddeford, Maine, USA. Larry's mother was a teacher, and their father was a boat builder.

Over the last few years, Larry has become interested in the **craft** of **rug hooking**, where yarn or strips of fabric are pulled through mesh made of textile. They create **2D** and **3D** rugs that allow them to represent family memories as works of **contemporary art**.

Currently, Larry lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and is a visiting professor of visual arts at Memorial University. They are in the middle of a project making rug-hooked, life-sized **installations** of every washroom they ever took a bath in!

****They/Them***

*A person will use they/them pronouns when their gender identity is neither distinctly male or female. This is also called **non-binary**.*

Looking at Art

Your ideas about a work of art are important! An artist's ideas, along with your ideas, are what makes looking at art meaningful.

Here are some questions to ask yourself while looking at the art in Larry's exhibition.

Choose an object you are drawn to.

Does it remind you of something or someone?

Why?

What are these objects made of?

Guess how the artist made them! Share your thoughts with a friend or family member.

How would you describe the feeling of peeling the sticker off of an overripe pear?

How does this art make you feel?

What do you think the artist is trying to tell us?

Look at one object in the gallery.

Describe what you see using many details.

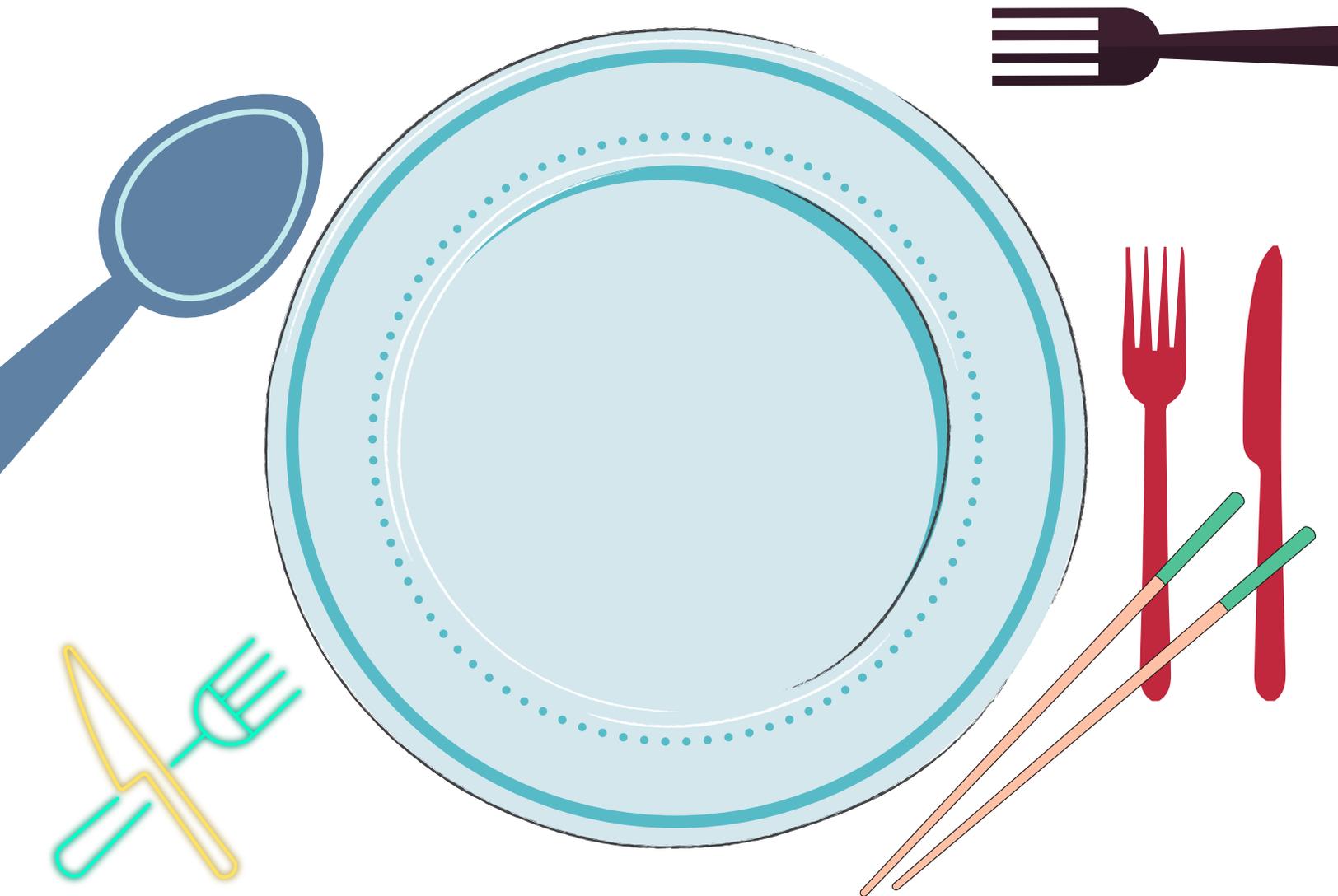


Why Food?

Over history, food has inspired many artists like Larry to create works of art. Where does this inspiration come from?

Food is not just something we **taste**. We **see, smell, and even hear food**, and it is the source of many memories and associations. Particular foods or meals can remind us of places we have been, or people we care about. Food is also a way of connecting to our ancestors, our country of origin, and our cultural traditions.

Draw a plate of food that reminds you of a special person, place, or day in your life.



Collecting Stories

As a starting point for their art, Larry conducted interviews with their family members. These conversations, and the art and writing that grew out of them have allowed Larry to better understand their family history, and their own experiences and emotions.

This process demonstrates two ways people can collect stories: through **Autoethnography**, and **Oral Histories**.

Autoethnography is the process of using self-reflection to better understand and explore our experiences. By doing this, we can also develop an understanding of wider cultural experience.

Oral Histories allow people to share their stories in their own voice and unique point-of-view.

TRY THESE WAYS OF COLLECTING AND SHARING STORIES:

- Preserve stories and art in a decorated **Time Capsule**
- **Write a Play or Story** based on an interview with a family member
 - Make an **Immigration Map** with your family, drawing lines from your country of origin to Canada
 - Create artistic **Recipe Cards** of the favourite dishes of your family members, near and far!
 - Make a **Family Tree with Fingerprints**
 - Draw a **Life Map** of the important milestones of a family member you interview



Materials Make Meaning

Artists choose their materials carefully. The materials a work of art is made with helps create meaning, and guides our understanding of it!

Some artists use **opposites** to communicate meaning in their art. They could be physical opposites, like heavy and light, or even emotional opposites, like happiness and sadness.

Larry uses a principle of art called ***contrast*** in their work. The comforting materials they use and playful objects they create helps them talk about difficult emotions and experiences. For Larry, soft and fluffy materials create a comfortable atmosphere for exploring complex subjects like addiction and mental health.

Try your hand at using contrasting objects and materials like an artist! Draw sketches of your ideas below:

Hard object made of soft material:

(example: a mountain made of marshmallows!)

Soft object made of hard material:

(example: a cloud made of steel!)

Textiles and Place

Places Larry has lived, and places their family members are from, all have their own unique textile traditions. On this page, you can learn more about how they inspire Larry, and how different locations have their own approaches to making items like rugs and blankets.

CANADA

PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Larry's father is from Pennsylvania. Many years ago, Dutch settlers brought textile traditions that this area is still known for, such as quilt making.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

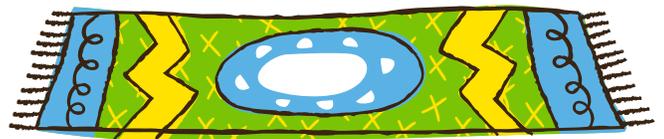
In Newfoundland and Labrador, where Larry lives, there is a long tradition of making delicate hooked rugs out of pantyhose!

MAINE, USA

Larry grew up in Maine. Here, hooked rugs are known for their thick, sculptural look. Biddeford, the town where Larry grew up, was once known for its textile mills where many people worked to make blankets and towels.

All cultures have their own unique textile traditions!

Ask your family and friends about the textiles found where they come from.





Big Feelings!

Have you ever shared big feelings with someone, and they didn't respond in a way you wanted or needed them to?

Don't get discouraged! If you have something you need to share, keep looking for friends and adults you can trust to tell.

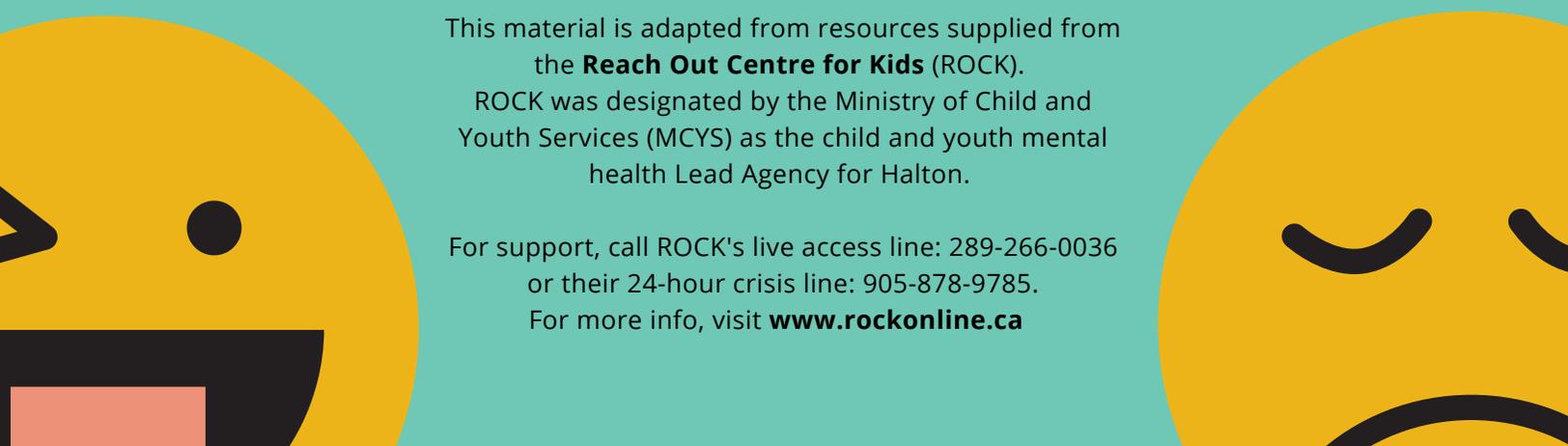
What if someone comes to me with a big story or big feelings?
Step-by-step, let's look at how we can support them.

#1: Become more present. Be attentive, let them know with eye contact and body language that you are there for them.

#2: Listen. This can sound like "What I hear you saying is..." or "I believe you." Give them time, and reflect on what they tell you.

#3: Honour feelings. This can sound like, "That makes sense that you would feel that way," or "I would feel that way too."

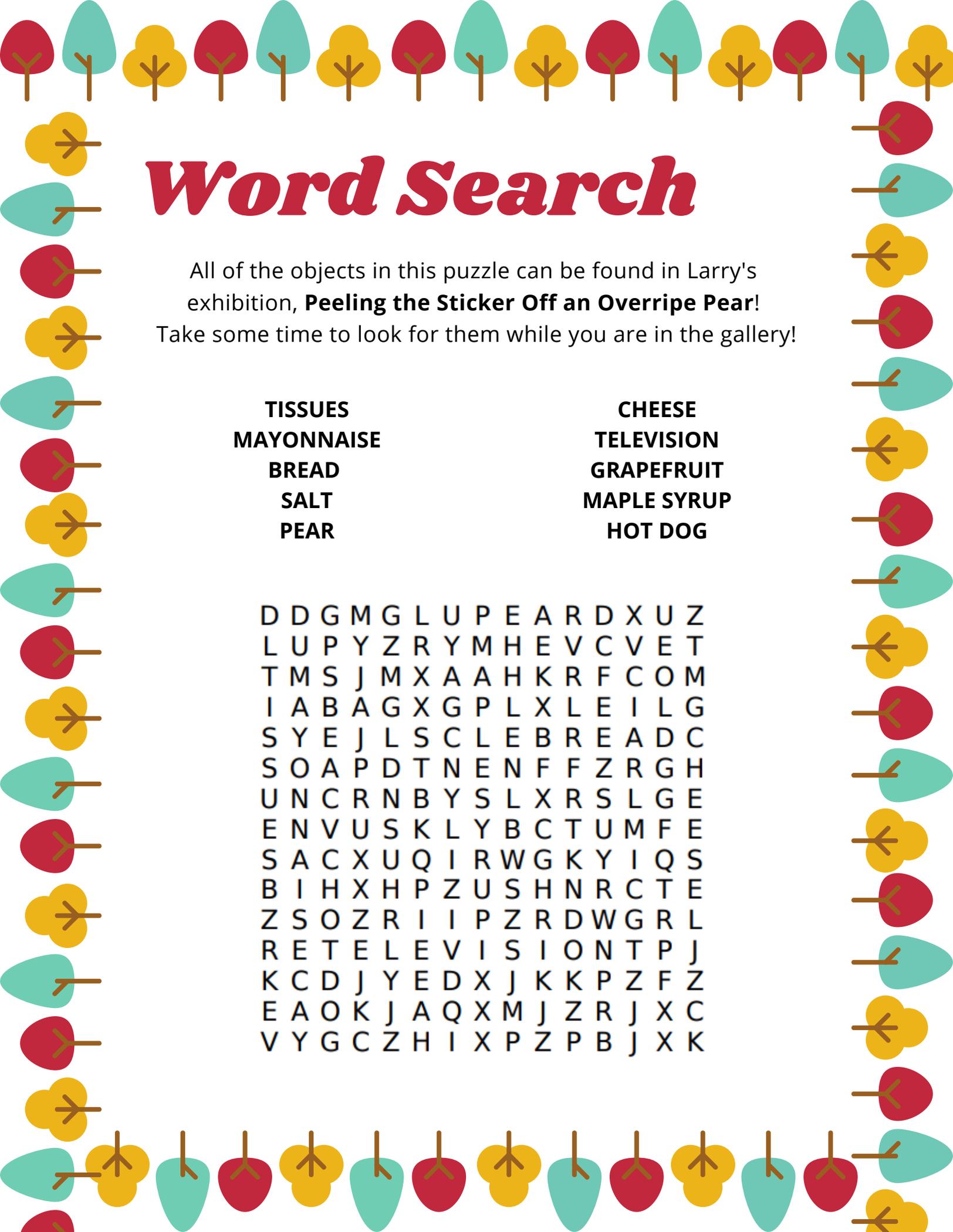
#4: Offer options. Ask, "What kind of support do you need/want? Do you need advice/space to just talk?" and respect the answer.



This material is adapted from resources supplied from the **Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK)**.

ROCK was designated by the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) as the child and youth mental health Lead Agency for Halton.

For support, call ROCK's live access line: 289-266-0036
or their 24-hour crisis line: 905-878-9785.
For more info, visit www.rockonline.ca



Word Search

All of the objects in this puzzle can be found in Larry's exhibition, **Peeling the Sticker Off an Overripe Pear!** Take some time to look for them while you are in the gallery!

TISSUES
MAYONNAISE
BREAD
SALT
PEAR

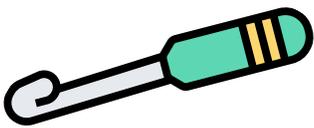
CHEESE
TELEVISION
GRAPEFRUIT
MAPLE SYRUP
HOT DOG

D D G M G L U P E A R D X U Z
L U P Y Z R Y M H E V C V E T
T M S J M X A A H K R F C O M
I A B A G X G P L X L E I L G
S Y E J L S C L E B R E A D C
S O A P D T N E N F F Z R G H
U N C R N B Y S L X R S L G E
E N V U S K L Y B C T U M F E
S A C X U Q I R W G K Y I Q S
B I H X H P Z U S H N R C T E
Z S O Z R I I P Z R D W G R L
R E T E L E V I S I O N T P J
K C D J Y E D X J K K P Z F Z
E A O K J A Q X M J Z R J X C
V Y G C Z H I X P Z P B J X K

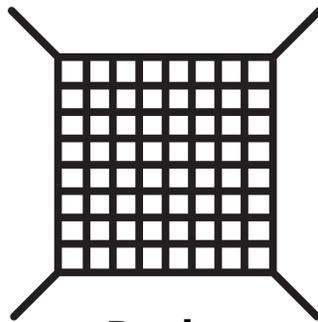
Hook a Mat!

To try rug hooking for yourself, you will need:

Crochet Hook

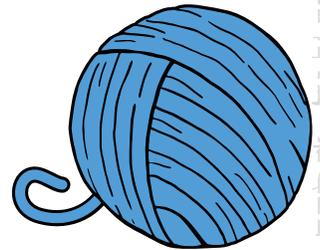


Marker



Burlap

Yarn



1.

Draw a design on a piece of burlap with a marker. Your drawing should use simple shapes that use just two or three colours of yarn.

2.

Make a loop with the end of your ball of yarn, like you are tying your shoe, and hold it under your piece of burlap.

3.

Using a crochet hook, poke through one of the spaces in your burlap and pull the top of your loop up through the top of the burlap.

4.

Repeat the process over and over again, colouring the design you drew on your burlap as though you were colouring a page in a book with yarn!



Family Open Studio at the AGB

SATURDAYS AT 1 PM ON IGTV

This winter, experience the AGB's **FREE family studio from the comfort of your home, on Instagram.**

Create unique art projects inspired by our current exhibitions. Visit our website for complete information about weekly activities and our free take-home art activity kits.

**A NEW PROJECT EACH WEEK,
A NEW THEME EACH MONTH!**

January/February: Water Works

March: Fabulous Fibre

April: Art That Moves

Art kits are available on the basis of need. Reserve one on our website. You can also find your own materials and create along with all Family Open Studio IGTV videos after they go live on our Instagram page.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land where we are located is part of the ancient Dish With One Spoon Treaty and also the Brant Tract Purchase, Treaty No. 3 3/4 of 1795, 1797 and 2010, and we are grateful to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River for sharing this territory with us.



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For more information on memberships, programs, and special events,
visit our website, or connect with us!

Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Saturday 12:00 - 5:00 pm Sunday & Monday CLOSED

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