

MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

Age: 2nd Grade and up
Lesson Duration: 2 hours
Subject: Weaving

Weaving Inspired by Dan Friday

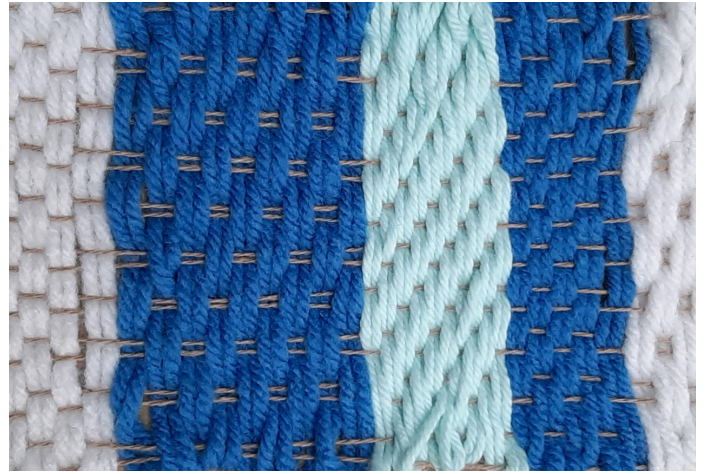


Image credit: Educator Sample

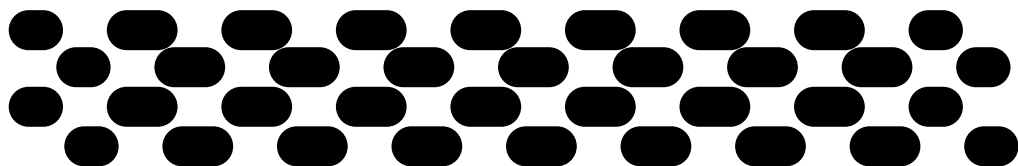
A HANDS-ON ART
ACTIVITY DESIGNED BY
MONA EDUCATORS

Description

This project is inspired by the thick and finely woven robes and blankets made from soft wool fibers from mountain goats and special 'wool dogs' included in Dan Friday's *Future Artifacts* exhibition, on display at MoNA from July 3 to November 14, 2021.

Materials

- Large plastic yarn needles
- Cardboard Looms ([see this video to learn how to make one](#))
- Yarn
- *Clallum Woman Weaving a Blanket* by Paul Kane (included at the end of the lesson)
- *5 Star Basket* by Dan Friday (included)
- *Dan's Blanket* by Dorothy Hood
- *Cedar Baskets* by Fran James
- [Video](#) of Dan Friday making glass baskets



Instructions

Becoming a weaver teaches some complicated skills for your hands, eyes and mind. All of them together help master the art of weaving.

This project is a fun place to begin.

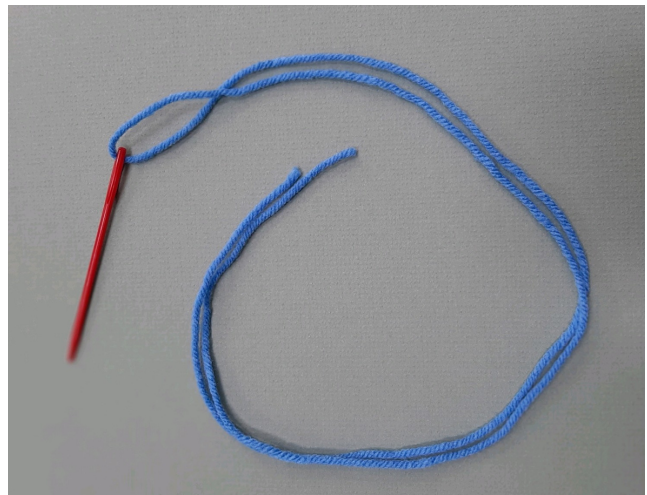
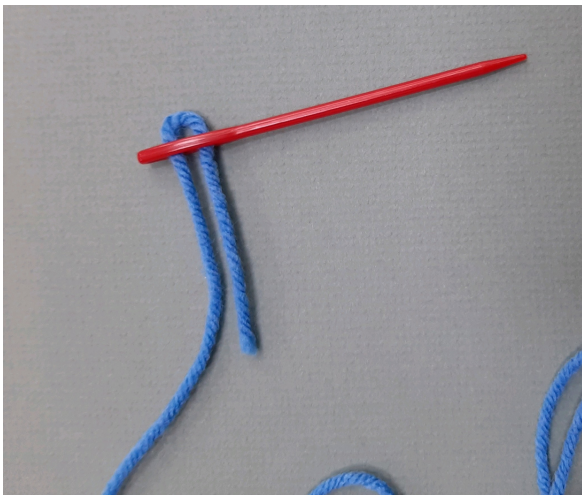
1) Introduction & VTS

Introduce the students to weaving by showing them *Clallum Woman Weaving a Blanket* by Paul Kane and use VTS to start a conversation about the piece. Then look at *5 Star Basket* by Dan Friday as an example of emulating weaving patterns in the media of blown glass. Dan's Blanket and the cedar baskets are examples of weaving with natural materials.

- VTS is an inquiry-based method of facilitating discussion. Tips and resources on VTS are included at the end of this lesson.
- Emphasize the process of spinning fiber to make yarn in this image. Note the wooly dog, whose fur was used to make fiber. Tell students that today we will be making our own weavings. This would also be a good moment in the lesson to go over the types of weaving and relevant vocabulary listed on the next page.
- Share this [video](#) of Dan Friday working on a glass basket.
- Images are included on this page to give a visual example of how to do this activity.

2) Thread your needle

Fold over the end of yarn to create a small loop that is easy to pull through the eye of the needle. Match both ends of yarn together with the needle in the middle of the string and you are ready to begin weaving with a double string, or leave needle at the end of the string and weave with a single strand.

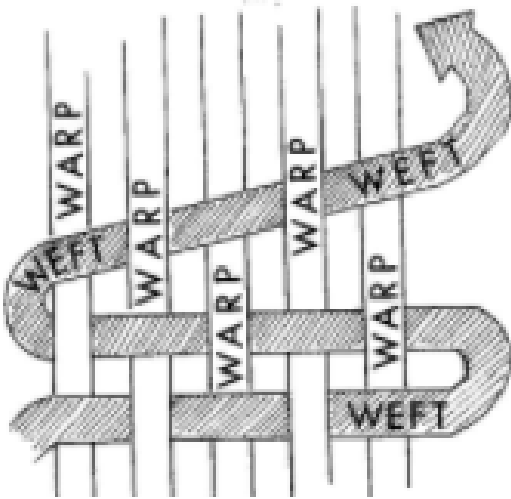


3) Weaving

The ends don't need to be tied because they are held in place as you weave. It's ok to leave ends as a sort of fringe on the side.

4) Try three weaving patterns

Weavers use diagrams called "pattern drafts." The "warp" threads are always shown in the up and down direction, the same direction you see them when you are weaving. The horizontal direction indicates the fill or "weft" threads. Begin with weave plain; then try basket, and twill patterns. See the "Types of Weaving" diagram included to learn weave structures.



5) Weave the weft over one warp, then under the next warp thread. Continue alternating warp threads (over one, under one) until you reach the opposite side of the loom. Continue in pattern till you reach the end of the string. Rethread the needle and continue the same pattern or try a different one. Don't weave too tightly. Use weavers "bubble" to avoid pulling in at the sides. After weaving a line, push the weft downward, against the rest of the textile. You can use your fingers or a comb to do this. Weft variations are achieved by changing colors, textures, or the number of strands used in any part of the weaving.



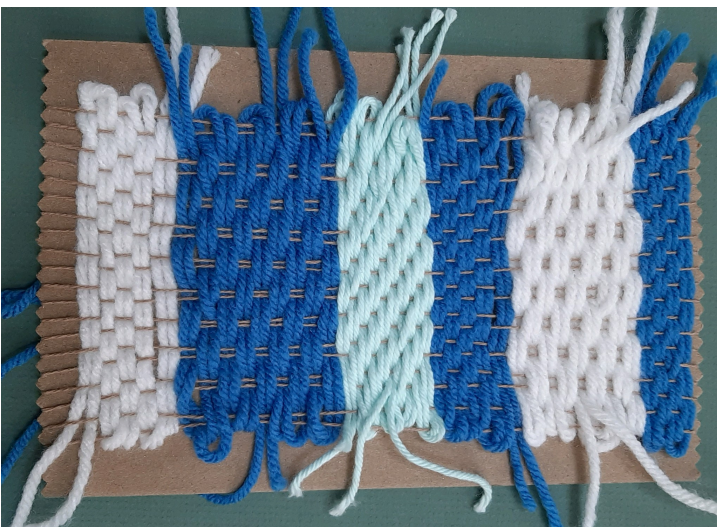
plain weave



basket weave



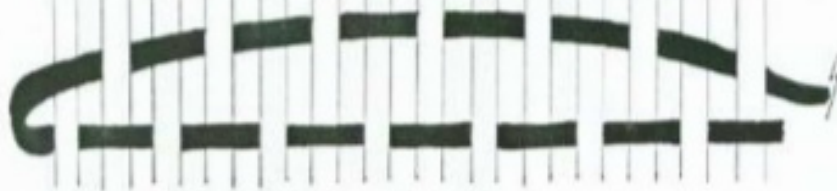
twill weave



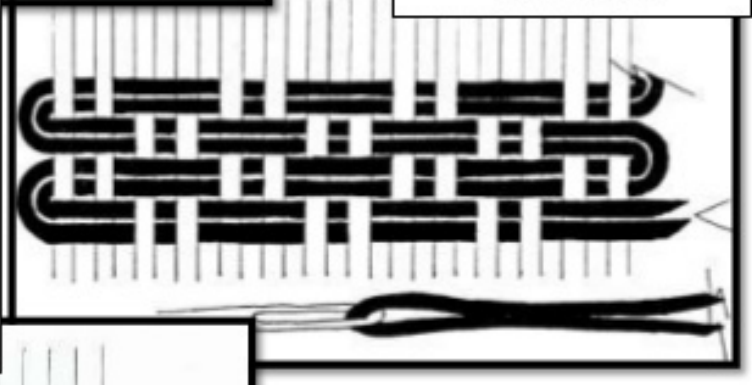
6) Weaving is complete when the loom is full and tight. Leave the weaving on the loom or turn the loom over and cut across the warp threads. Bundle warp ends into groups of three or four tie in a secure overhand knot. Trim warp ends and leave as 1" fringe.

Types of Weaving

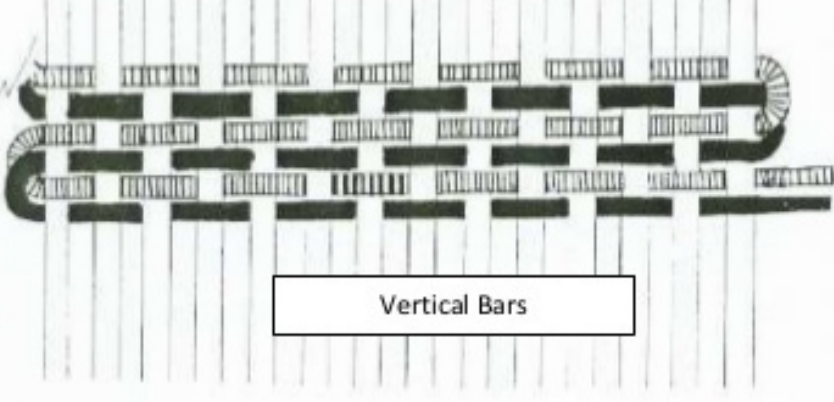
Tabby/Plain Weave



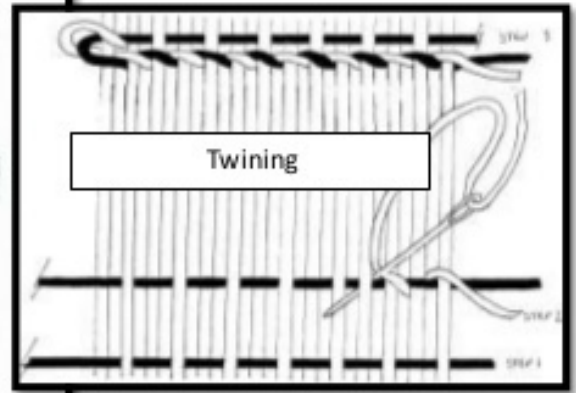
Basket Weave



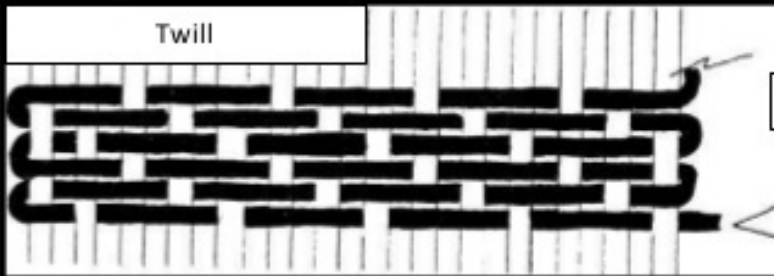
Vertical Bars



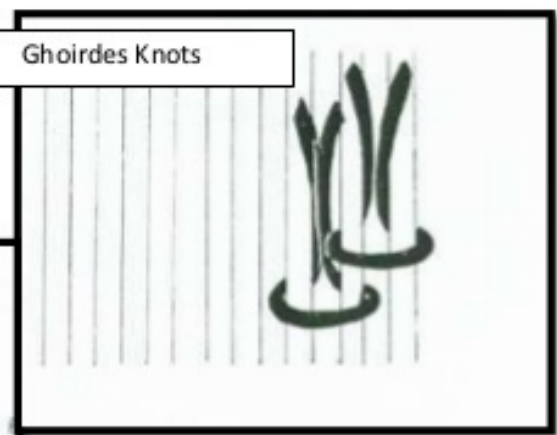
Twining



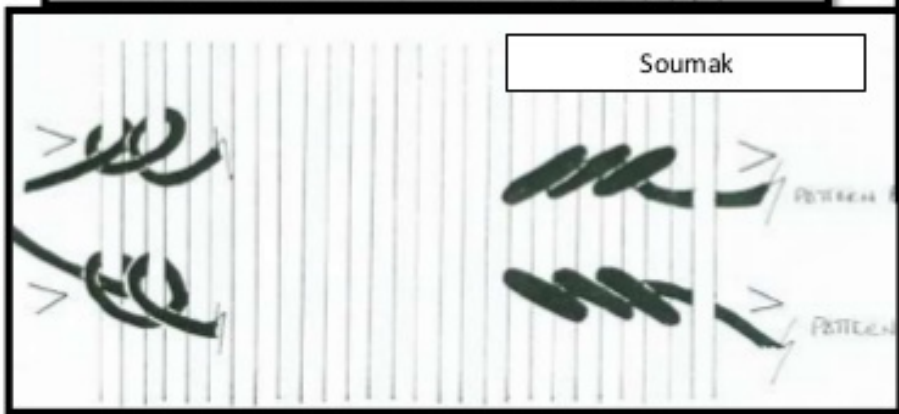
Twill



Ghoirdes Knots



Soumak



Relevant Vocabulary

Tabby - plain weave; most basic weave formed by raising alternate warp threads.

Basket Weave - weft threads weave over two, under two warps with double strand of weft.

Twill - a basic weave in which the filling forms a diagonal pattern.

Warp - the threads that stretch lengthwise in a loom through which the filling threads are passed to form cloth.

Weft - the threads that transverse across the loom through the warp to form cloth.

Learning and State Standards

Fulfills Washington State Arts Learning Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.1.3** Create personally satisfying artwork, using a variety of artistic processes and materials.
- **VA:Cn10.1.4** Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions.
- **VA:Cr2.1.7** Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.

Visual Thinking Strategies

MoNA's Education programs utilize Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS), which is a research-based teaching method that promotes aesthetic development including critical thinking and communication skills. Here in the MoNA, we use VTS to engage students and general visitors with art encouraging them to observe closely, think critically and discuss respectfully; however, VTS can be effectively used across curricula. This approach teaches its participants how to take the time to observe closely, describe what they see in detail and provide evidence for their observations. Students learn that their reflections and thoughts are valued and appreciated in this inclusive teaching method.

In order to facilitate a VTS discussion, you first encourage viewers to take a quiet moment to observe the work you are going to explore. Then you ask the following questions and paraphrase the responses without adding any of your own judgements. You can insert additional vocabulary and point to specific parts of the artwork.

What's going on in this picture?

What do you see that makes you say...?

What more can you find?

Visual Thinking Strategy Links

If you are interested in learning more about VTS, [here is their website](#). If you already know and love VTS, but want help finding great images to use in your classroom, here is a [fantastic gallery](#). You can also visit this website for additional resources: www.monamuseum.org/resources-for-educators

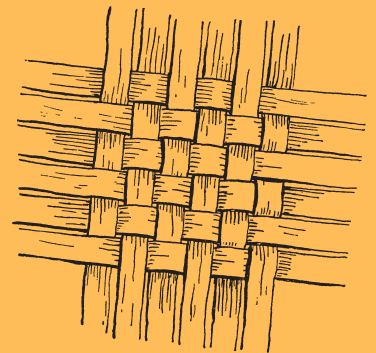
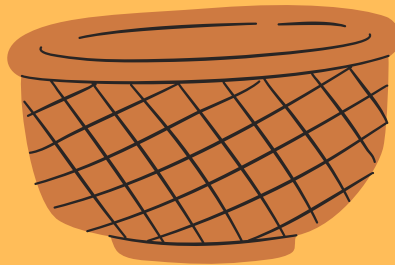
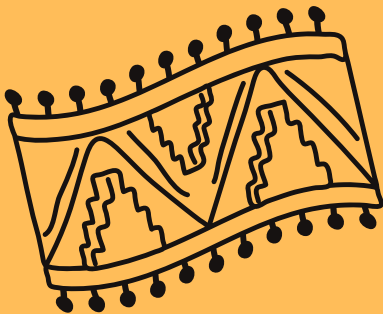
Meet the Artist: Dan Friday



Image Credit: Emily Gilbert, *The Seattle Globalist*

Dan Friday is a glassblower and artist from the Puget Sound region in Washington state. Friday has studied glass work for over 20 years with notable artists, including Dale Chihuly and Jan Mares.

As a member of the Lummi nation, Friday aims to continue the artistic traditions of his family by solidifying them in his contemporary glass art. This work can often be recognized by its simple and elegant silhouettes.



"I ALWAYS HAVE A PEN IN MY BACK POCKET. THE BACK OF MY HAND LOOKS LIKE A MAP. OFTENTIMES IF I DON'T WRITE IT DOWN, IT WILL SLIP AWAY. YOU CAN'T FORCE IDEAS TO COME, YOU JUST HAVE TO BE READY WHEN THEY DO COME."

- DAN FRIDAY



*Paul Kane, Clallum Woman Weaving a Blanket,
mid 19th century oil painting*



5 Star Basket, Dan Friday, 2017, hand-blown glass with cane techniques



Dan's Blanket, woven by Dorothy Hood



Cedar Baskets woven by Fran James