

YARN PAINTINGS

The Huichol Indians of Mexico are known for their vibrant yarn paintings, created as a form of visual prayer to their gods. In their traditional yarn paintings, they take beeswax melted in the sun and then spread it over a piece of wood. Then, they take brightly colored yarn and push it into the wax, forming the image. We can make something similar using cardboard and glue.

MATERIALS

- A piece of cardboard
- Scrap paper
- Pencil
- Bits of yarn or wool – all colors
- White glue

DIRECTIONS

1. First, determine what your image will look like on scrap paper. When designing your project keep in mind the thickness of the yarn, any element too small will be difficult to color with yarn.
2. Draw your design with pencil on the cardboard.
2. Cut your yarn into manageable lengths.
3. Spread a small amount of glue onto one section of your drawing and begin filling it with yarn. It is easiest to work the yarn in the glue with the tip of a pencil. When filling in sections with yarn it is also easier to go in a spiral starting on the outside of the shape and swirl inward.
4. Fill up the entire design with yarn leaving little to no background showing. Below are images of student work.

Sources: <http://www.indianartsandculture.org/past-exhibitions?eventID=497>

