

FIBRE FELTING FUN Activity 3a

CULTURE 365 - GETTING CREATIVE SERIES
Presented in partnership with Dream Brokers

Intro to Needle-Felting With Melanie Rose

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Needle felting is the process of using a needle to push and pull wool fibre into a design on a fabric. This process is used to create exciting colourful designs on blankets, clothing, pillows and tapestries. Artist Melanie Rose uses the art of needle felting to create beautiful work

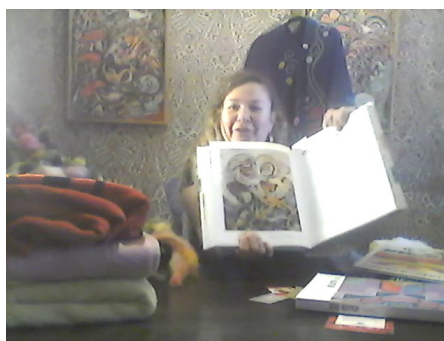
based on Métis beadwork designs. Today, Melanie introduces the art of needle felting and leads you through a beginner project. The needle felted square you create can be framed or used as patch on a blanket or pillow.



Supplies Needed-
Felt square (5 x7),
four colours of wool,
sponge (5 x7), two
felting needles in a
holder (cardboard or
part of plastic stir
stick), and a pencil.

STEP 1 Today, we will start with making flowers.

Decide on a design you would like to create on the felt square using the colours of wool you have in your kit. Look at the work of well-known artists for inspiration. Melanie suggests artists such as Christi Belcourt, Ted Harris, Bob Boyer or artists from the Group of 7 Indigenous artists.



STEP 2 Place the 5 x 7 inch piece of felt on top of your sponge. You can use a pencil to draw some ideas on a paper or right on the felt or just go free style. The pencil lines will be covered with the wool.



STEP 3 To begin, pull out a chunk of wool to roll into the stem. Pull like candy floss out of the end of the wool.



IMPORTANT NOTE: By attempting this activity, you accept responsibility for your actions and indemnify SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, contracted artists and/or its partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, volunteers against all claims, actions, suits, demands, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every kind.



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visit [SaskCultureInc YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) or
[SaskCulture.ca](https://www.SaskCulture.ca)



STEP 4

Twist and roll the wool into the shape of a flower stem.



STEP 5

Place the stem where you want it on your design.

Jab the needle straight down into the wool, felt and sponge and pull it straight up again. Not too deep and **watch your fingers**.

Do this multiple times until the wool is sticking into the felt. The more you jab up and down with the needle, the more the wool becomes part of the felt.



STEP 6

The felt should stay attached to the felt. If you don't like the look, simply pull the wool out and try again.

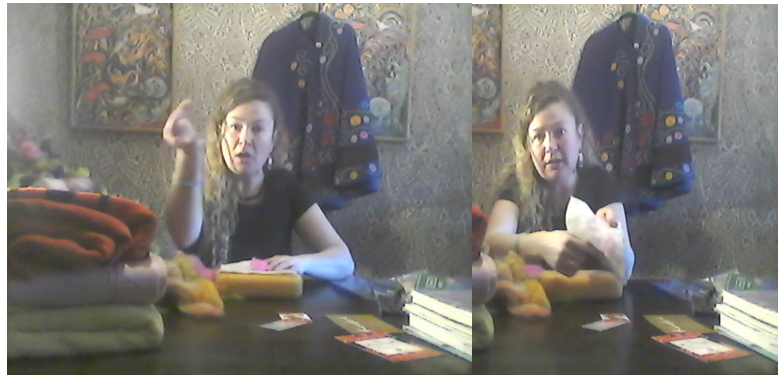
Take another colour of wool to make the flower. Wrap the wool around your finger to create a circle. Place the circle of wool onto the felt into your design.



STEP 7

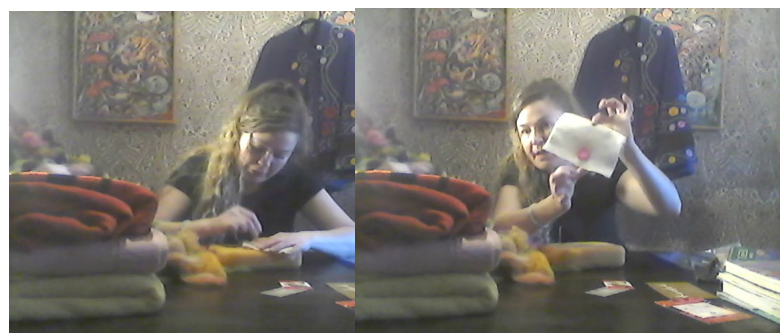
With the needle, jab directly up and down into the wool to attach it to the felt.

Make sure you go directly up and down – so the needle does not break. Look at the underside of your felt to see that the wool is coming through.



STEP 8

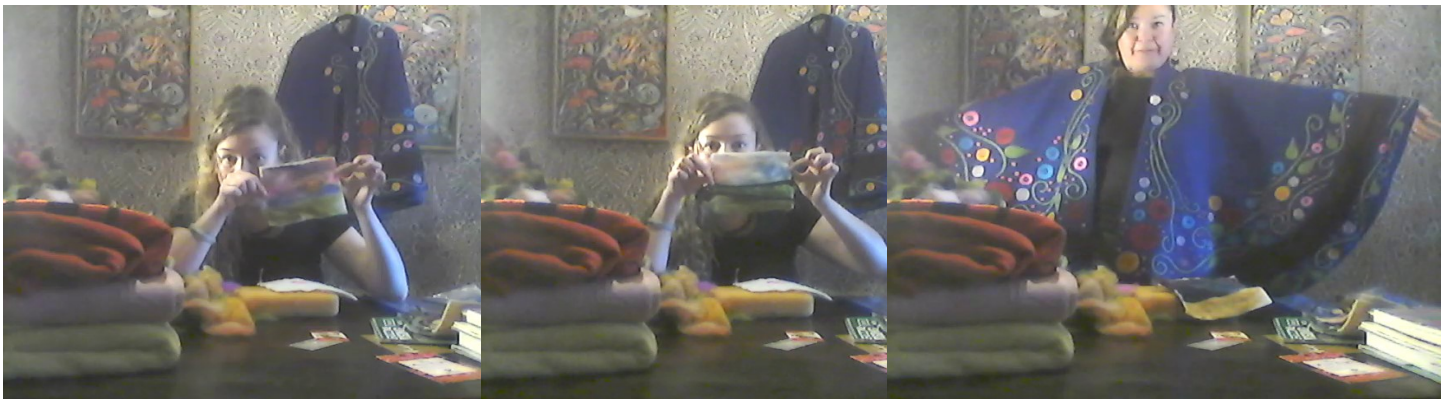
Take another small piece of wool to create the centre of the flower. Place this on the flower and jab up and down again with the needle until you're happy with your flower.



STEP 9

Add more elements to your design.
You can add leaves or other flowers.

Or, you can create a background. It's
your design, do it your way.



NEXT STEPS

Felting is used for more than just creating designs in fabric. The technique can be used to make creative and useful items, too. Try the next levels in this series: **3b. Wet-Felting Beads**; **3c. Wet-Felting Buttons**; and **3d. Wet-Felting Bowls**.

Once you have completed your felted crafts, take photos of your completed works and send it to your Dream Broker. The artist would love to see your work, and SaskCulture would love to add it to a showcase of student expression.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Melanie Monique Rose is a visual artist from Regina, Saskatchewan, Treaty 4 Territory, and a long-time contributing member of **Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective Inc.** She attended Kootenay School of the Arts with a major in the Fibre Arts in Nelson, B.C. and has exhibited her artwork in both group and solo exhibitions nationally. Her greatest honour was to receive the distinction of Excellence in Textiles in Dimension's 2013 touring show. In addition to showing her work, Rose has worked in the province as gallery facilitator, story-keeper, and art instructor for the Mackenzie Art Gallery and in addition teaches various workshops at both public and private institutions. She is currently a full-time mom to Meadow Rose, who was born in 2018, a caregiver, and an artist.



SaskCulture's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as the homeland of the Métis.

