

FIBRE FELTING FUN Activity 3d

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

Wet-Felting Bowls With Melanie Rose

WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Wet-felting is the process of wetting, rolling and squeezing wool until the fibres mat together – like a dreadlock. Wet-felting can be used to create different objects such as beads, buttons or bowls. This process is used in different cultures around the world. In Mongolia, the people use the art of wet-felting to create their own homes or tents, called “yurts”.

Today, Melanie Rose will introduce you to the art of wet-felting and teach you how to make your own felted bowls.

When complete, you can use them to hold small items such as change, jewelry or paper clips or stack them up.



Supplies Needed:

Two colours of wool,
3-4” plastic ball,
plastic dish with
hot water,
dishwashing soap,
scissors and
a few towels from
home.

STEP 1

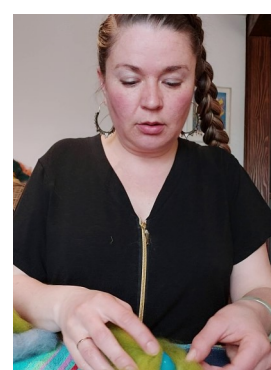
Pour hot water into your plastic bowl, half way full. The hotter the better but don't burn your fingers. Add in cold water to cool down if too hot. Drop in a small drop of dish soap into the water.

Remember: keep you unused wool away from the water.



STEP 2

Choose your ball – it can be any size, but a 3” or 4” ball works well.



STEP 3

Take a chunk of wool and make a nest for the ball.

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.

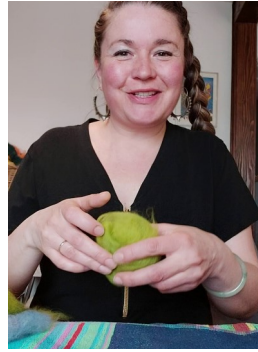


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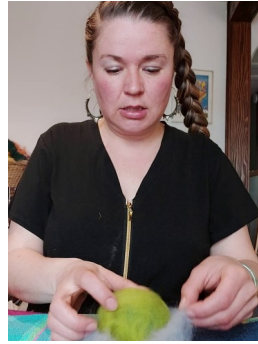
STEP 4

Wrap the ball up with the wool like a present. Cover the ball entirely and try to smooth out any folds. (Close your eyes and feel the bowl to feel how smooth it is). You want it thick enough to form a bowl.



STEP 5

Choose another color of wool. Flatten it out into a nest and wrap it around the ball. This will be the outside of the bowl. Make sure the other colour is completely covered. Add in more wool if you need it.



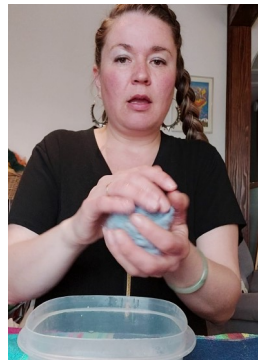
STEP 6

Dip your ball into the hot water. Don't dunk the whole thing, just dip it.



STEP 7

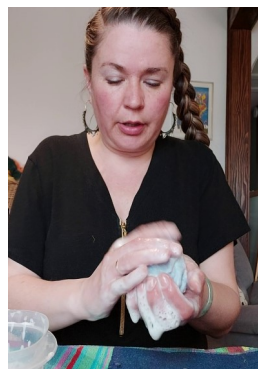
Roll the ball gently between your hands. Continue to roll to smooth out the wool around the ball. Dip back into the water and then continue to roll.



STEP 8

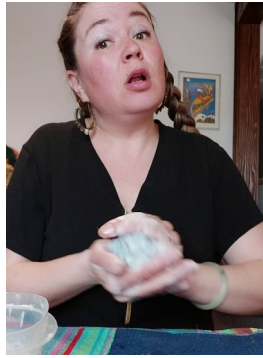
The ball should be starting to lather up in your hands. Continue rolling and dipping to get the water and soap into the all layers. The wool will start to tighten up as the hairs start coming together.

Make sure your water is hot! The hot water shocks the wool so that it becomes felted.



STEP 9

Continue to roll in your hands until it is smooth. You can press harder on the ball now. Squeeze and roll the ball more vigorously. You want to get the water and soap deep into the middle of the ball. You want it felted inside and out.



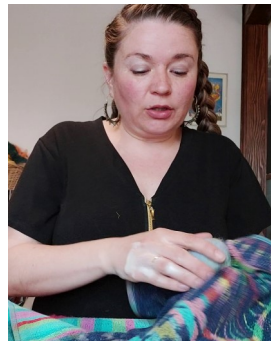
STEP 10

When fibres are felted they should be difficult to pull from the ball. Try pull out some fibres. If the fibres come out easily continue rolling.



STEP 11

When completely soaped inside and out, go to the sink and rinse the ball in cold water. When you get the soap off, dry the ball well with your towel.



STEP 12

Once the ball is dry, you could just keep this as a ball. If you used a rubber ball it will bounce. These make good toys for pets.



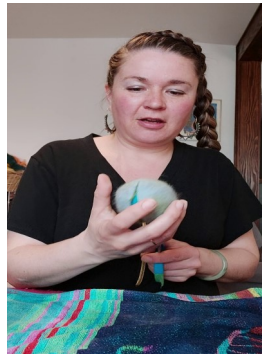
STEP 13

To make a bowl, the next step is to cut it open. Take the scissors and poke a hole in the middle through both layers of wool. (Don't poke the ball).



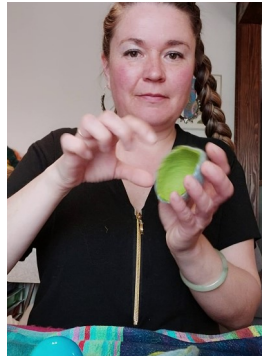
STEP 14

Cut around the ball until you have two halves.



STEP 15

Open up and you will have two bowls with different colours inside. Let dry and enjoy!



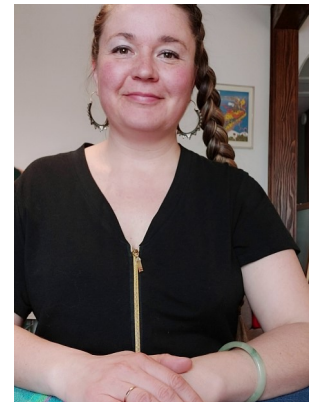
NEXT STEPS

Felting is used for more than just creating designs in fabric. The technique can be used to make beads, buttons and bowls. Have you completed all four activities? Watch for more felting projects or create your own.

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 honor 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.



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