

Design Resource

Woolen Thread Art - Andretta, Himachal Pradesh

Thread works

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/woolen-thread-art-andretta-himachal-pradesh>



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
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Introduction

It's unarguable that early humans' incredible findings have left a strong base for producing many utilitarian products in the coming age. One such discovery is that of wool, a fiber that helped the human species survive through harsh climatic conditions. The Neolithic humans are believed to have made use of pelts of hunted animals for warmth and protection from predators. Gradually, they realized that the pelts are comfortable and durable, thus paving the way for pioneering processing techniques and tool making, ultimately leading to modern-day woolen fabrics.

At around 4000 B.C, inhabitants from Babylon, a city from Mesopotamia, wore crudely woven wool clothing. With this idea crossing beyond boundaries, soon, people started rearing wool animals like sheep, llamas, rabbits, and even goats. But soon, sheep wool was recognized as the most practical best for use. Later as Britishers learned the art of rearing sheep and Flemings discovering the skills of processing the raw fur, the wool trade flourished in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Englishmen imported their wool to Flanders for processing and transported it back to the land for commercial sale. Realizing the potential of the fur industry, both countries pumped in more resources for its growth. Now, Australia, Argentina, the United States, and New Zealand are the biggest players in the wool business. Here Australian wool accounts for about one-fourth of the world's wool production while the United States stands as the major consumer.

Wool is composed of a natural protein named 'keratin'. This fiber is covered with scales that determine its strength and length. Every single strand of wool is made of three essential components; the cuticle, the cortex, and the medulla. The cuticle is the outer layer that magnetizes each other to cling and stick, letting the fibers' collection be easily spun into a thread. The cortex is the inner structure made up of millions of cortical cells arranged in a manner giving the material its natural crimp. These cells carry melanin hence enables wool to accept dye colours readily. The medulla is the third and the hollow part running through its center, contributing to the fiber's flexibility, elasticity, and durability.

Artisan Mrs. Kamaljit Kaur from Andretta village, Himachal Pradesh, runs an art center named 'Shobha Singh Art Gallery'. Here many training programs are conducted for women and children under the supervision of artisans. A particular type of seasonal camp at the center includes classes on crafting creative pieces from material waste. One among such art forms is woolen thread art. Various types of embroideries, fabric painting, glass painting, quilling, greeting card making, etc., are also taught in those workshops.

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Miss. Kamaljit Kaur artisan of Sobha Singh Art Gallery, Andretta village, Himachal Pradesh.



Artisan's working place at Sobha Singh Art Gallery.



The artisan showing the woolen thread work.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials used for making woolen thread art are as follows:

- **Woolen threads:** It is the basic material that is used for making thread art out of wool.
- **Needle:** Using the needle, woolen threads are used for sewing the canvas stencil.
- **Stencil:** It is the reference used for creating the artwork.
- **Scissor:** Scissor is used for cutting the excess thread of wool.



The cutter and Scissor are used to cut the threads.

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The coloured woolen yarn is used in woolen thread art.



The needle is used to fill coloured threads in cloth.



The sketched cloth is used in woolen thread art.

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Making Process

Materials used for woolen thread art are minimal and simple; hence, people belonging to any age group can master it. A stencil, reference image, scissors, and needle are the only few materials needed. First, a hessian fabric bearing designs for reference are chosen, and the colour of the woolen threads is fixed as per the reference image. Here hessian fabric, also called burlap, is used as it comes with equidistant gaps easing the effort of stitching. Later an appropriate length of the thread is cut and inserted through the needle's eye to fix its edge with a knot. This woolen thread is then stitched over the outline of the design in double layers. The design may consist of a portion with different colours; hence various coloured woolen threads can be used accordingly. The complete threading work follows the same pattern of vertical stitches throughout. Thus making it ready for sale or hung in a specific area.

Flow Chart:



1. A design is chosen to initiate the woolen thread art.
2. Required coloured woolen thread is opted as per the design.
3. The woolen thread is inserted in the eye of the needle.
4. The coloured thread is filled all over the design.
5. The whole composition is stitched vertically, forming uniformity.
6. Thus the woolen thread art is made.



The artisan is putting the woolen thread into the needle's eye.

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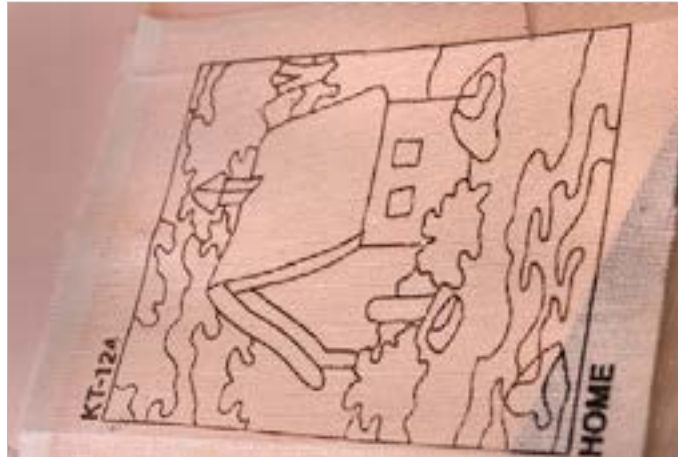
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The drawing cloth is used in making the woolen thread art.



An artisan takes the green colour woolen thread.



The artisan is sewing the thread into the cloth for making a tree design.

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Artisan is using pink colour thread to sew on the sketched cloth.



Artisan sewing the Sketched home roof with a yellow colour woolen thread.

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Artisan is finishing the work by filling different coloured woolen threads in all left-out areas.



The scissor is used in cutting the threaded part.



The artisan filling the end part of woolen art with the pink colour thread.



The final product of the woolen thread art.

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Products

Andretta woolen thread art is a refreshing form compared to other thread embroideries. This art form is comparatively less time-consuming and inexpensive to manage. It illustrates varied themes of landscapes, birds, animals, flowers, portraits, scenery, etc., in wall hangings, cloth embroideries, card making, and other decorative items. The products are usually available in 1x1 feet and are usually kept colourful for their decorative nature. Many admire this thread art for its durability and ability to enhance the beauty of the space where it is put up.



Home and nature woolen thread art.



Rose woolen thread art.

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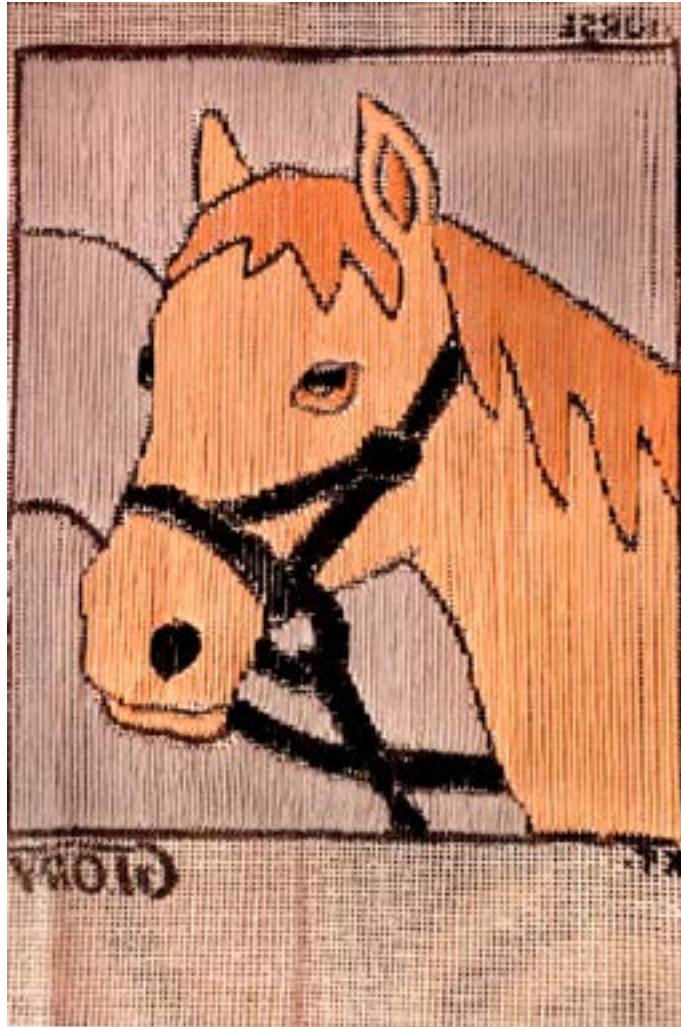
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Horse face woolen thread art.

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Video



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This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

You can get in touch with him at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu)

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Key Contacts:

Ms. Kamaljit Kaur
Shoba Singh Art Gallery
Andretta (Palampur) HP,
India
Mobile: 09418540971

Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054

Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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