

Summer Arts 3: “Tell a Story” fiber art & water media

Lesson Plan Objective:

In the exhibition *Bonds*, Canadian artist Jagdeep Raina works with themes of communities, labor, emigration, and forgotten histories in the Punjabi and Kashmiri diasporas, a word which means peoples located far away from the land of their family heritage. Raina works in mixed media and videos and sometimes makes textiles using an adaption of a traditional embroidered garment called a *phulkari* to produce images based on historical scenes, everyday people, and rural life across India and Pakistan.

His work tells stories through images.

Traditionally, some women in rural areas of the Punjab region of India produced beautiful designs of embroidered fabrics for shawls and special clothing, and often gathered together to do this.



Think about a place your family goes together or an activity you do together. If you want, you can use a photo of your family or the place. Or you could imagine a place you and friends like to go. Is there somewhere in your neighborhood you visit often? A playground or park? A library or store? Walking your dog? Eating an ice cream cone?

We are going to make a mock embroidery image using yarn or heavy thread. If you do not have access to that, an alternate would be thin strips of colored paper

Approximate Time:
Up to 1 Hour

Skill Level:
Easy

Parental Supervision:
Child scissors, assistance with material preparation suggested

Art Materials:

- Yarn or heavy thread in 2-5 colors
- Possible alternative: Construction paper
- Glue (non-toxic)
- Child scissors
- Sketch paper
- Cardstock, posterboard, or cardboard
- Pencils
- Markers or water-based paint like tempera or watercolor
- If using paint, then paint brushes, water container (flat bottom), paper towels

Image: *Garden Minorities*, 2021, Embroidered tapestry with Kashmiri Sozhi, embroidered border and muslin. Courtesy of the Artist and Cooper Cole, Toronto.
Photo: Sean Fleming

Instructions:

1. Sketch your ideas on sketch paper. Use large shapes that you can fill in, and strong outlines.
2. On heavy cardstock, posterboard, or cardboard redraw your design.
3. Choose shapes to fill in with the yarn pieces. Cut short pieces and arrange like embroidery stitches.
4. Glue yard to paper.
5. In areas you are not going to use yarn embroidery style, use water media or markers to fill in your picture.
6. Continue the process until you are finished with the picture.



Sample Images, Rona Lesser

Top left: Idea Sketch

Bottom left: Embroidery with contour lines

Top right: Finished Yarn Sample

