

R|A|M

Woven Wall Hanger Inspired by the Work of Artist Dawn Walden

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, create a woven wall hanger inspired by Dawn Walden, an Ojibway artist—part of a larger group known as Anishnaabe—in RAM's permanent collection. Native Americans have used natural resources in every aspect of their life for centuries, traditionally creating baskets, blankets, carved items, clothing, masks, and totem poles. These functional objects are often made by weaving natural materials such as twine and bark. In the image below, Dawn Walden used cedar bark and cedar root to construct her basket. Take a moment to step outside and gather any natural materials that you may want to incorporate into your design. Items such as twigs, sticks, leaves or pines are ideal.



(above) detail image of weaving

Dawn Walden

Random Order Anishnaabe, 2005

Cedar bark and cedar root

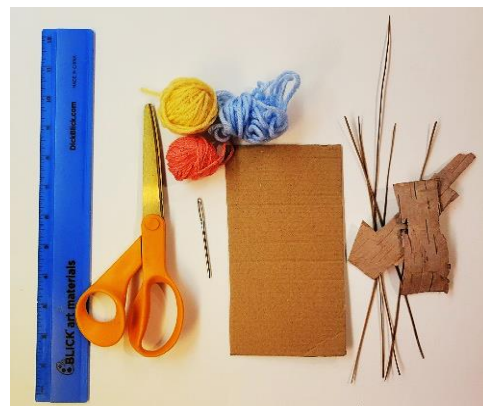
51 x 23 x 23 inches

Racine Art Museum, Gift of Danielle and Norman Bodine

Photography by Jon Bolton

Supplies

- Cardboard
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarns
- Large needle
- Natural materials (bark, pine, sticks, etc.)



Instructions

1. Begin by drawing 10 equally spaced lines onto a piece of small cardboard. Cut each end of the line on the cardboard, starting about a half inch from the edge.
2. Use yarn to weave through the slits, wrapping it vertically around the cardboard, so that the yarn wraps the back of the cardboard as well, as described below.
3. String a new piece of yarn through the hole of a big needle and begin to weave across the cardboard horizontally. Repeating under and over until you reach the end, then repeating back and forth until you have a desired amount. TIP: Make sure you are alternating the pattern so that your weave stays tight.



4. Weave in a natural material, following the under and over pattern. Tuck the end of the yarn around the edge of the natural material and continue to weave following the pattern.
TIP: Use the needle to push the yarn up to hold a tight weave.

5. To change yarn colors, simply knot one end to another, and continue weaving using the under and over pattern.



6. Once your weave is full, flip it over, and cut the strings down the middle.

7. Flip the weave back to the front, and begin to tie two ends of yarn together on each side of the weave. You should have exactly 10 ends on each side, so that each end will be part of a pair, which you can tie together.

8. Use a small twig or branch as the top hanger. Align it onto the top of your woven piece, and tie the yarn ends around the twig/branch into knots. Cut the remaining ends of yarn off.



9. Tie an extra piece of yarn to the twig/branch to hang your finished weaving. And voilà, you have created your very own woven wall hanger inspired by the artistry of Native Americans.

