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Woven Heart Basket Inspired by Mary A. Jackson

Celebrate Black History Month by taking inspiration from fiber artist Mary A. Jackson, and create your own functional basket. Jackson grew up in South Carolina, where she initially learned about making baskets from her mother and grandmother. Together they taught her West African crafting traditions, which had been handed down generation to generation. In addition to carrying on Gullah basket-making traditions, Jackson is an innovator—creating new designs and adding contemporary elements. Her formal twists include angles built into the body of the basket, baskets that are almost flat, and baskets that have long grasses left unincorporated, hanging over the side.



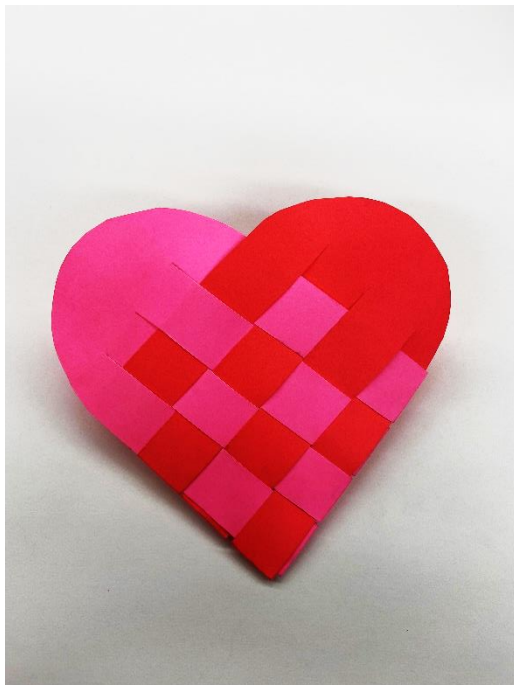
Mary A. Jackson

Basket, ca. 2010

Charleston sweetgrass, palmetto
palm fronds, and bulrush
2 x 23 inches

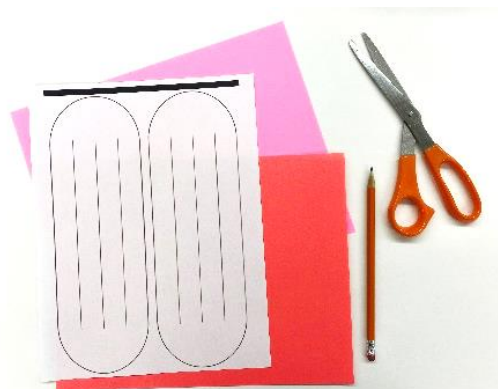
Racine Art Museum

Gift of Marcia and Alan Docter



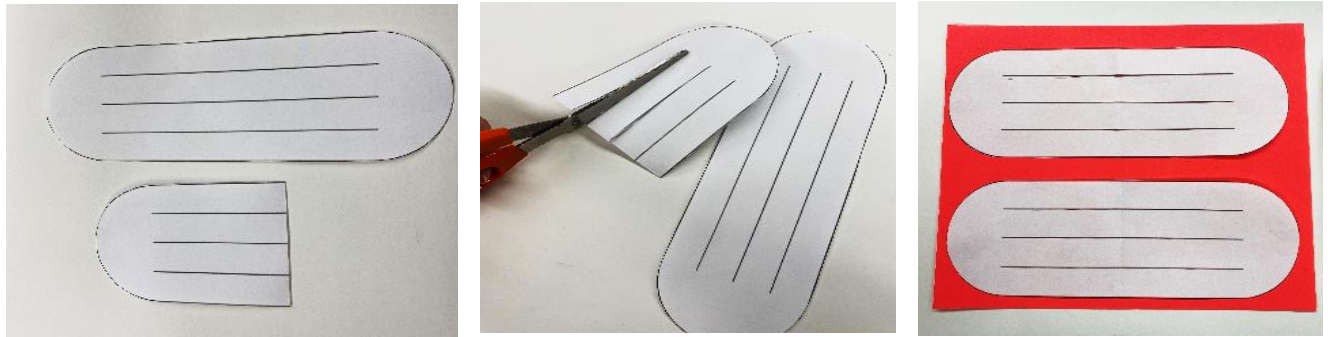
Supplies

- Heart template (page 5)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Two sheets of colored paper



Instructions

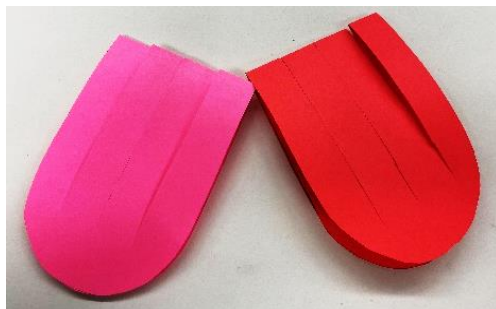
1. Print page 5 of this document and use scissors to cut out the heart stencils.
2. Fold the stencils in half.
3. Cut down the three middle lines of each crease, on both stencils.
4. Unfold both cut templates and place one on top of each colorful paper.



5. Using your pencil, trace the heart templates onto your colorful paper. Be sure to trace the three middle lines that you previously cut in the middle of the templates.
6. Use the scissors to cut out the heart template from your colorful paper. Repeat with the other colored paper and stencil.

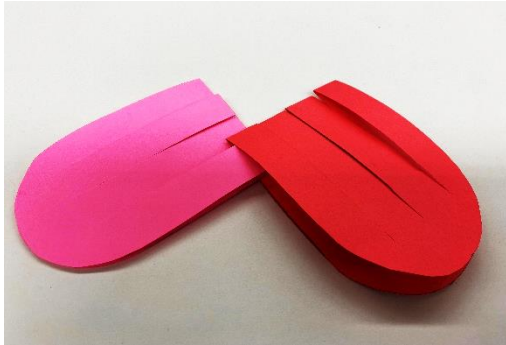


7. Before you begin weaving, take your two templates and fold them in half again. Position your two folded templates on your surface with the rounded side facing you and the flat side facing away.

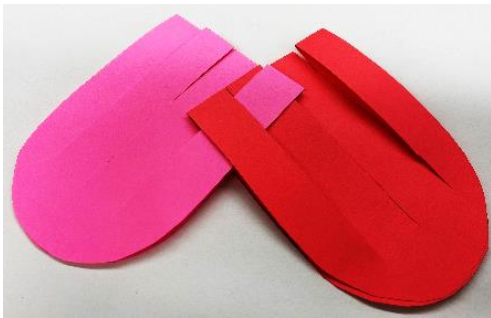


You are now ready to weave!

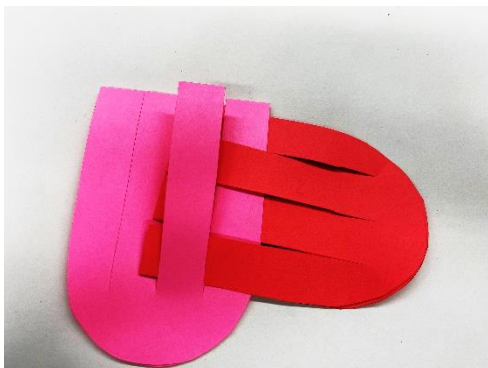
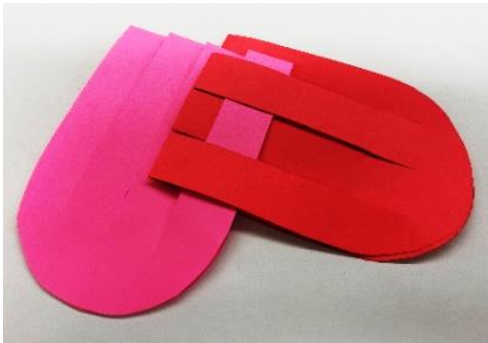
8. Take the first loop of template 1 (Pink), and thread it through and inside the first loop of template 2 (Red). Make sure to thread the loops through each other, rather than behind and in front each other. This will make the heart three-dimensional at the end.



9. Take your second Red loop and thread it through your first Pink loop.

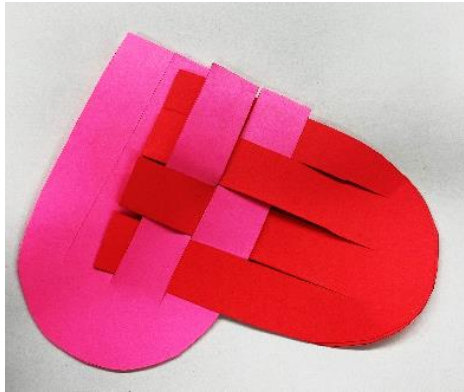


10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 to continue threading every other loop to create row 1.



11. Once row 1 has been completed, begin with the opposite color for row 2. Take the first Red loop and thread it through the first Pink loop. Continue threading your loops to create Row 2.

12. Once row 2 has been completed, start again with steps 8 and 9 using the next strip to complete row 3.



*If you are struggling to weave your loops together around rows 2 or 3, try pushing the completed rows towards the rounded tops of the hearts.

13. Once row 3 has been completed, start again with the next strip to create row 4.

