

SUPER SATURDAY AT HOME: SUGARBUSH SHRAPNEL



Photo: Olivia Whetung's *Sugarbush Shrapnel*

Create a unique work of art inspired by our current exhibition, *Sugarbush Shrapnel* by Olivia Whetung.

CAMPBELL RIVER

ART GALLERY

Olivia Whetung's *Sugarbush Shrapnel* is a series of small beaded seed pods. All different shapes, they shimmer like jewels in the light. But just like seeds, what is *most* special about these pods is not their beautiful outsides, it's what is hiding inside them.

Olivia's Nishinaabe family has been making syrup from "sugarbush" (maple) sap for hundreds if not thousands of years. While heating sap over the winter fire with her family, a rock suddenly exploded from the intense heat, shooting out "shrapnel" (small pieces of rock). Olivia collected the pieces and placed them in beaded pods to remember this moment and save the traditional knowledge of maple-sugaring for future generations.



Photo: Olivia Whetung's Sugarbush Shrapnel

For our seed pods, we will stitch three squares together with yarn leaving an opening to place our own treasured memory.

You will need:

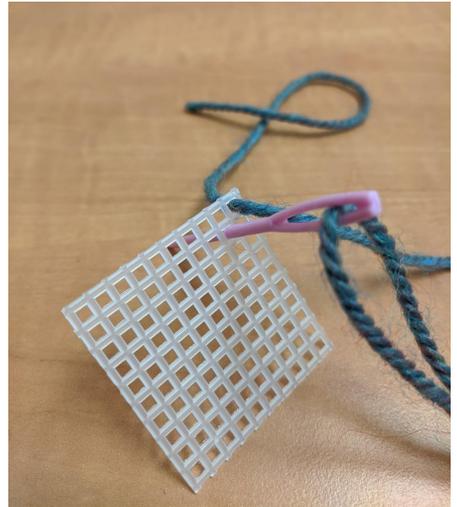
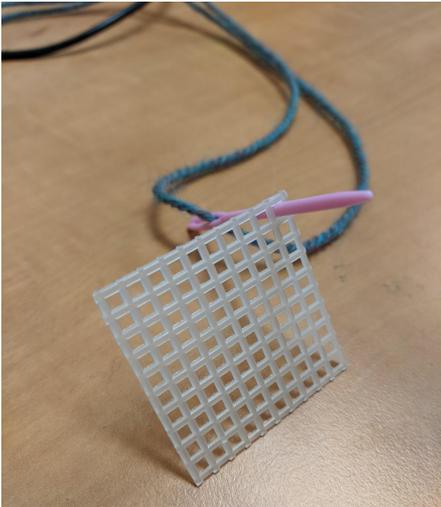
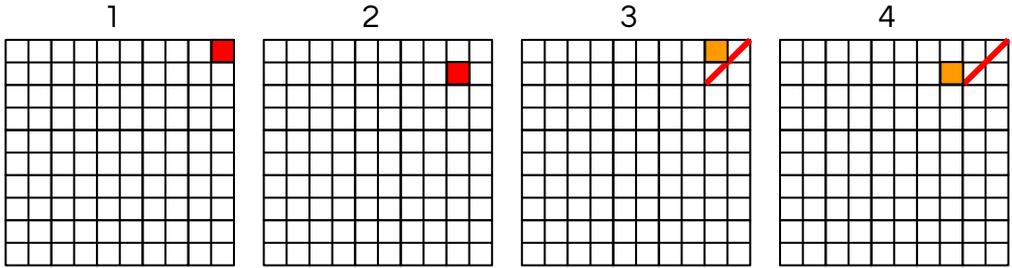
- 1x *Super Saturday Art Kit* from CRAG
- A small item that reminds you of a special moment, perhaps something you learned from a family member

Steps:

1. **Fill those squares!** To make our pods, we need to first fill in the middle of our squares before sewing the edges together. To create the same look as Olivia's seed pods, we're going to use a muted colour of yarn (3 pieces) for the middle and a bright colour (1 piece) for the edges.

First, thread your needle with the muted colour of yarn.

Pull the needle up through the hole in the first diagram below and down the hole in the second diagram, leaving a 4" tail. Repeat the steps below to create slanted stitches, moving from right to left.

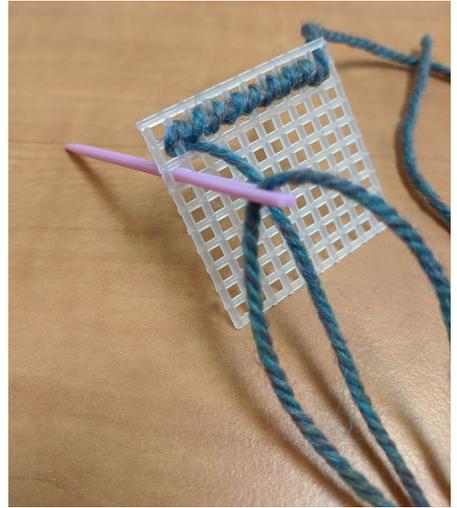
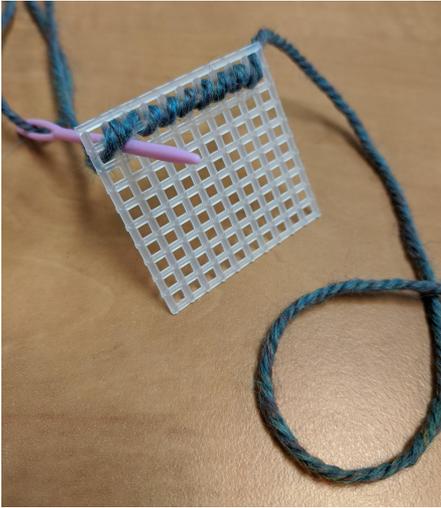
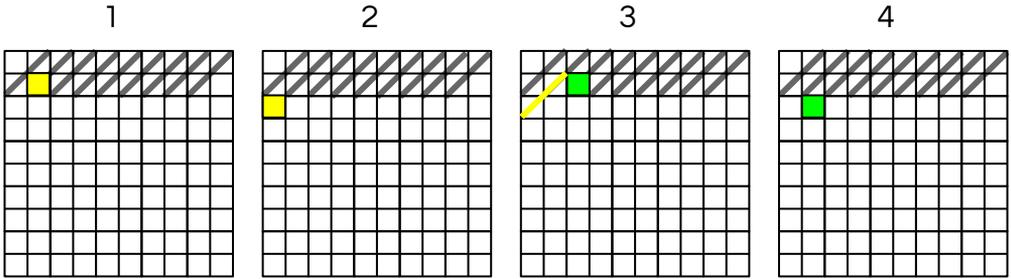


If you're having trouble following the diagrams, watching a video helps to see it in action: <https://youtu.be/XJI5AnSsXOY?t=137> OR try the alternative method on page 4.

Steps:

1. Fill those squares! (cont'd)

At the end of the first line of stitches, move down one row and start working from left to right. So our next stitch starts by pulling the needle up the hole right beside our last stitch.



Continue working back and forth, from top to bottom. After the last row of stitches, cut a 4" tail.

Repeat these steps for the remaining two squares.

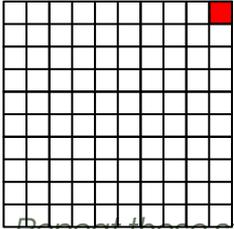
If you're having trouble following the diagrams, watching a video helps to see it in action: <https://youtu.be/XJI5AnSsXOY?t=137> OR try the alternative method on the next page.

Steps:

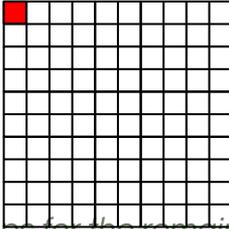
The easy version for little hands and busy lives: Fill your squares with long straight lines instead of small slanted stitches.

Pull the needle up the top right corner and then down the top left corner, leaving a 4" tail. Continue working right to left, from top to bottom. After the final row of stitches, tie the two tails in a knot.

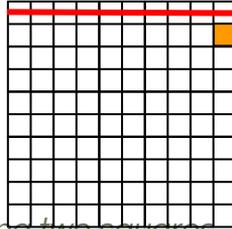
1



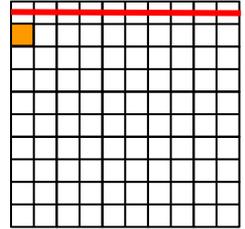
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3



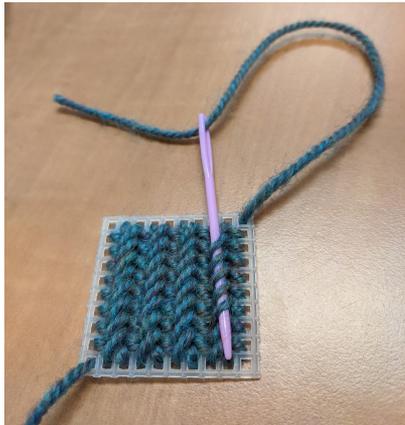
4



Repeat these steps for the remaining two squares.

2. **Weave in those tails!** Our squares will have a “right” side that faces out and a “wrong” side hidden inside the seed pod. We wanted the side with all slanted stitches to be our right side because it looks the most like Olivia’s beads.

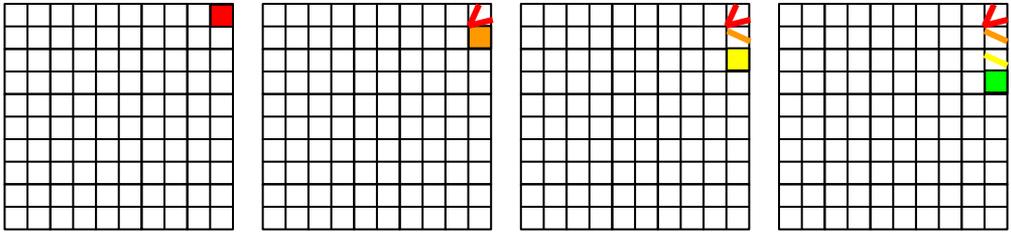
Thread your needle with one tail and run the needle under a line of stitches (about 3-4 stitches) on the “wrong” side. Cut the remaining yarn tail off. Repeat this step for all the yarn tails.



3. **Sew it up!** First we will cover the edges of our opening, then we'll sew the remaining edges together.

Thread your needle with the bright yarn. Take one of your squares with the right side facing you, and pull the needle through the hole marked in the first diagram, leaving a 4" tail. To cover all sides of that corner, pull the needle up through the same hole twice more.

Next, pull the needle up the hole directly under the last stitch. Repeat this pattern moving down the edge until you reach the next corner.



Turn your square so the new corner is at the top, then follow the pattern above, pulling the needle through the corner twice and then moving down to the next corner. Wrap the third corner by pulling the needle through the hole twice. Cut a 4" tail.

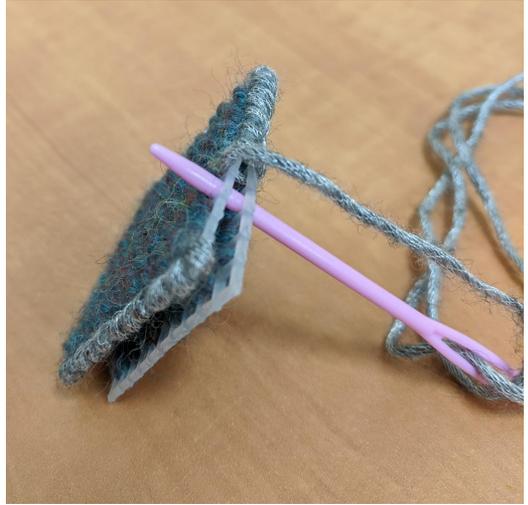
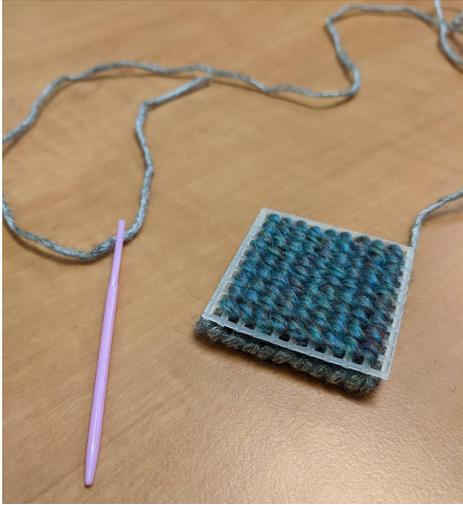


Repeat these steps on another square, but do not cut the last yarn tail. Weave in the three tails just as before on the wrong side.

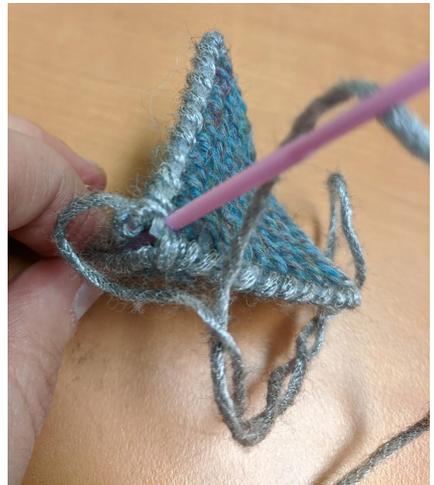
You now have two covered edges on two squares and a third square with no covered edges.

3. Sew it up! (cont'd)

Take the square with the needle and yarn still attached and place it wrong side up. Place the square with no covered edges on top of this with the right side up. Holding these two pieces together like a sandwich, stitch along the two uncovered sides *exactly the same as before*, through both pieces. Leave the long tail.



Next we are going to squish that third square in, right side facing out, lining up the last two uncovered edges. It's going to look pretty funny! Holding these pieces together, stitch the last edges together.



Gently squeeze the corners and POP! You now have a 3D seed pod!

4. **Add your memory!** Your seed pod is now ready for the item that reminds you of a special moment. Squeeze the sides of the opening to place your item inside.



Everyone's special memory will be different. In our case, we wanted to remember the gift of learning to sew clothing, passing on a skill that has been in the family for generations, keeping us warm and safe. We remember our early mistakes and the patience of older family members who gently guided us through them.

5. **Share your creation with the world!** Step back and admire your finished work. Why not snap a photo to show friends and family what you've made?



We would love to see your creativity in action. Tag your photos with #CRAGSuperSaturday on social media or email your photos to programs@crartgallery.ca

ENJOY!

CAMPBELL RIVER

ART GALLERY

Since 2005, CRAG has offered Super Saturday family drop-in activities by donation. With safety in mind, we created new take-home kits to continue inspiring budding artists and encouraging creativity.

The *Sugarbush Shrapnel* solo exhibition, on tour from Vancouver's Contemporary Art Gallery, that inspired this activity was made possible through the generous support we receive from our funding partners and our many members and donors.

Thank you for your continued support.



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