

# Canvas Loom Weaving

(art + music)

"Music is the ultimate teacher," - Wassily Kandinsky

The art of weaving can be compared to a musical composition in a number of ways. With its repetitive under-and-over motion, weaving creates a visual rhythm. The pattern of color in a woven design is like the pattern a composer creates with repeating tones, melodies and themes in a song — they unify the piece from beginning to end. Weavings incorporate a variety of materials that make movement and texture prominent in specific areas of the artwork, just as music draws on various instruments and sounds.

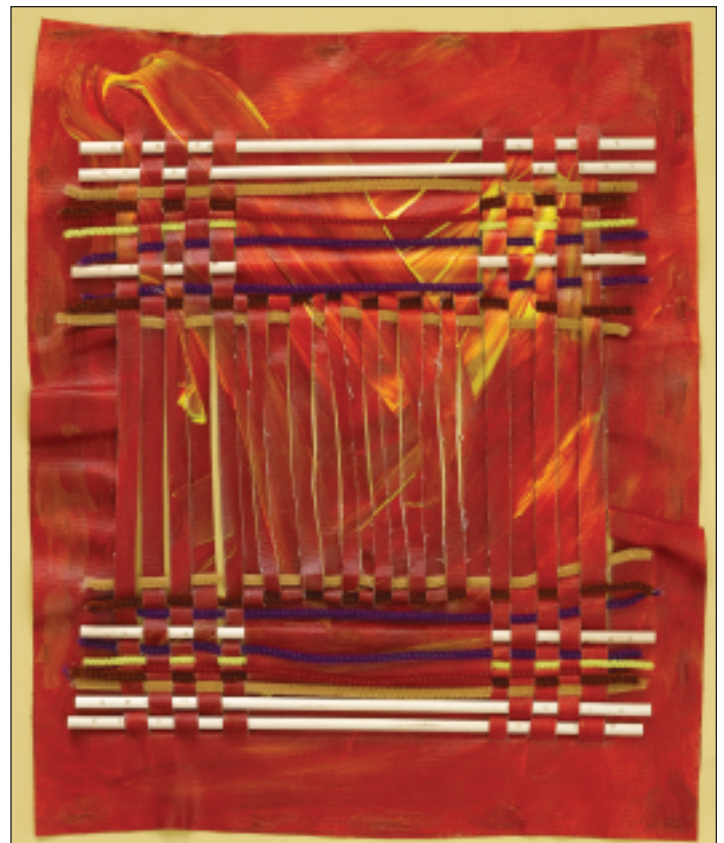
Choose a few musical selections for students and have them interpret the six principles of design while listening to music: contrast, rhythm, unity, pattern, movement and balance. Using a variety of materials on a loom they create with painted canvas paper, students will use the principles they have just discovered in the music to weave a visual composition that exhibits the same qualities.

## Grade Levels 9-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Process

1. Trim canvas sheet to 14" x 18".
2. Choose two colors of paint only. Squeeze the paint onto the gessoed side of the canvas. Drag the brush through the paint in broad strokes, mixing the two colors. Cover the entire surface of the canvas, leaving areas of thicker paint in some places. This is now an abstract background and will become the loom. Don't overwork. Allow only five minutes to finish this step. Allow to dry completely
3. Create the canvas loom. The loom may be sectioned and cut in many ways. The pattern provided (see page 2)



## Materials

**Blick® Studio Canvas Paper**, 16" x 20" (07400-1048) 10-sheet pad, need one sheet per student

**Blickrylic™ Student Acrylic**, 6-pack Mixing Color Set (00711-1039), select one or two additional colors (pints) to share across class

**Blick® Scholastic White Bristle Gesso Brush**, 1-1/2" (05156-5112), share six across class

**Blick® Aluminum Ruler**, 18" (55430-10181), need one per student

**Blick® Economy Graphite Pencils** (20302-2009), box of 12, need one pencil per student

**Alvin® Utility Knife** (57459-0000), share one between four students

**Wooden Dowel Rods** 1/4" dia x 12" long (60448-1412) package of 12, need six dowels per student

**Chenille Kraft® Stems**, 4mm (60923-1012) assorted 100-piece package 12" stems, share four packages across class

**Chenille Kraft® Big Box Pipe Cleaners**, 6mm (61466-1001) assorted 150-piece package 12" stems, share three packages across class

**Rapid® E14 Stapler** (57236-2050) need one

**Swingline® SF4 Office Staples** (57230-1025) one box of 5000

**Blick® Construction Card**, assorted colors, (11408-) need one 18" x 24" sheet per student

## Process, continued

was used for the piece in the photo, upper right. Always leave a 2" border. Some areas may be left flat, without cutting

4. With ruler and pencil, draw the lines for your pattern on the unpainted side of the canvas. Use a utility knife to cut along the lines.
5. The dowel rods give depth and support to the weaving as they are added. If desired, use a utility knife to cut notches or other texture in the smooth wood. Painted designs are also very handsome. A maximum of six rods work well on this size of canvas loom.
6. Start the weaving with a dowel rod. Weave under and over the strips and the solid area, then on the other side. Alternate the colorful chenille strips. Save one wood rod to place before the center strips start. Add just a few chenille pieces to both the canvas strips on the side and through the center. Do not fill the canvas loom completely! It needs room. If too much solid weaving is used, the design will become a lump!

NOTE: If the weaving design is too tight, remove and adjust the chenille.

7. Cut cardstock to 16" x 18". Place the canvas weaving on top and staple the outside edges of the canvas to the cardstock. Staple in places where you want the canvas to curve. Cover the staples with a dab of paint to disguise.

## National Standards

Content Standard #1 – Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use

Content Standard #3 – Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

**9-12** Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture

Content Standard #6 – Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

**9-12** Students compare characteristics of visual arts within a particular historical period or style with ideas, issues, or themes in the humanities or sciences

