

ARTS & CRAFTS

Copy: Allinah Zhan, Claire Dong, Kyra Hsieh, Zack Li
 Graphics: Allinah Zhan
 Layout: Allinah Zhan



Fiber arts' modern forms originate from weaving and knotting from many ancient civilizations in China, Egypt and the Middle East. Babylonians and Assyrians created macramé, complex knots and hitches, for decoration, used as a pastime for sailors. Seafarers historically have also done tatting as a way to create lace with loops and knots. Today, knitting, which uses two needles, and crocheting, which uses one hook, employ yarn to create items from sweaters to coasters. Additionally, embroidery decorates these fabrics, with cross stitching being the most beginner-friendly form of embroidery. Quilting unites these fiber arts, stitching together shapes into one large fabric that feature embroidery, embellishments and appliques.

Paper crafts are found across many cultures. The traditional Japanese origami uses the structural memory of paper to create figures without glue or scissors. A similarly ancient paper art is Jianzhi, or paper-cutting, dating back to sixth century China. Designs are often cut from a single sheet of red paper, symbolizing prosperity. Beyond two dimensional designs, papier-mâché evolved into the Mexican craft of Cartoneria: using paper, wire and adhesive to sculpt alebrijes, or folk art sculptures of fantastical animals, piñatas and other related figures.

Soap making traces back to ancient Babylon, mixing fats, water and wood ash together. Similar practices emerged in Egypt, Rome and Sumeria. The most prominent modern methods of making soap are melt and pour, cold process, hot process and rebatching, which differ in the source of lye and how saponification is triggered. Some soapmakers add decorative swirls, ombres and other natural ingredients to spice up the products.

Tori Maciel (12) - Soap Making
What kinds of soap do you make?

"I make soap using olive and coconut oil completely from scratch. I don't buy the glycerin, and I make the lye itself by [mixing sodium hydroxide] with distilled water...I melt the oils together and then add essential oils and other additives. One time I tried using spirulina to dye it, but because the oil's a really dark color, you have to use a lot of it to show."

Any advice for beginners?
 "Start with simple recipes, don't try anything crazy... just be careful. Watch a lot of tutorials, because it can be really dangerous if you don't do it correctly. It gets really, really hot, and it can burn your lungs, [eyes and skin] if you breathe it in. I use goggles, gloves and a mask, and I ventilate my area with a fan."

Jewelry making is a very ancient art. The first known jewelry — perforated shell beads made by Neanderthals — was discovered over 100,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians used rings, amulets, girdles and other regalia to indicate status and wealth, bringing them to the grave. Gold jewelry originated in Bulgaria, with over three thousand gold artifacts discovered in an ancient cemetery dating back to 4600 years ago. Modern artists use all sorts of materials to create charms and the like.

Bethany Dang (10): Crocheting
What's your favorite part of crocheting?

"My favorite part is the outcome. I don't really like the process of making it, because it's kind of time consuming, and it's just doing the same motion over and over again, but the outcome's really cute and makes it worth it."

What's the hardest part of crocheting?

"Getting the stitches right. In the beginning it can feel awkward to hold the hook in the yarn, and sometimes, since you're a beginner ... it's easy to mess up. There's a lot of different [tutorial] videos that you have to learn, [and] some of them are really bad."

COURTESY OF BETHANY DANG



Anjalika Khare (11) - Henna
How did you get into doing henna?

"I've just been exposed to it for my entire life. I might as well adopt it and carry on something my family's been doing for so long. Mostly I had it done on myself quite a bit... Eventually I decided, why not buy a few cones of henna for myself? I started practicing on myself, my little sister and my mom. Eventually I started doing it for my family and friends as well."

Are there any designs, themes or motifs you like to draw?

"In most Indian henna art, you'll find flowers, natural themes, swans, butterflies [and] geometric patterns. Henna was one of the first forms of body art ever, and it mimics what people would see around them. I've gone into more modern styles now, like a lot of tattoos have cybersigilism."

Body art includes permanent and temporary body modifications. Piercings, especially ear piercings, are among today's most common forms of body art. Tattoos are also widespread and done by injecting ink into the skin using tiny needles. A temporary method that marks human skin with art is henna, a tradition that began in cultures throughout the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. Artists apply a dye made from dried, powdered leaves to stain skin with abstract designs.

COURTESY OF ANJALIKA KHARE

Ava Baptista (12) - Henna
How did you get into henna?

"I've done it since I was young. I've just always liked art. That's an outlet that I [used to] express that. Plus, I really like doing detailed stuff. I feel I have the patience for doing henna... I started again last summer because a friend recommended I start an account. She saw my work and thought that I could make a buck off of it."

What's the process of drawing henna for a client?

"What I would do first is get a comfortable space for my client because... [you] don't want them to be uncomfortable. I would [put on] gloves because [because the paste] stains. I would get the tube of henna, [either] red and brown. I would ask my client which one they want in advance. I'd also map out the sketch that they want."

Taylor Lee (12) - Jewelry Making
How did you start making jewelry?

"I was trying to pick up new hobbies [during the pandemic], and something I could do was pen pal friends, and I wanted to start sending them little gifts, so I started making beaded bracelets and teaching myself how to do other kinds of jewelry."

What's been your favorite project?

"I had a stint of time where I made these flower bracelets, and I made a bunch for people, so much so to the point where people started asking me if I was starting a business. That was why I started loving to do it even more. I would give different colors to my friends. It was nice because we all had one similar friendship bracelet."

COURTESY OF TAYLOR LEE



MAKE THIS PIECE OF PAPER INTO AN ORIGAMI HAT!!!

1) PLACE THE PAPER THIS WAY



2) FOLD LENGTH-WISE



3) FOLD WIDTH-WISE



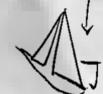
4) FOLD RIGHT CORNER DOWN



4) FOLD LEFT CORNER DOWN



5) FOLD THE FLAPS UP



YOU ARE DONE

FOR MORE OF A CHALLENGE, VISIT [HTTPS://ORIGAMIOK.COM/ORIGAMI-TOP-HAT/](https://origamiok.com/origami-top-hat/)

