## YOUTH FIBER ARTGUILD WET FELTING

## Textile Center



Fill a small bowl with hot water. but not too hot! Add dish soap and mix until vour water is slick to the touch.



Choose a base color that will end up on the back side. Spread the wool out like a spider web on top of a mat. Make sure the fibers are even and not clumped. All the hairs should be running up and down.



Choose color(s) to make up the background of your image. Lay the fibers down on top of your first layer so the fibers run side to side. (Perpendicular to the first layer.) Make sure the fibers are even and not clumped.



You should now have two layers. You shouldn't be able to see through the layers. Adjust or add fiber as needed.



Create your design on top. Keep in mind that the fibers can shift around while felting. Once your design is complete, add the other felting mat on top. It should now be a fiber sandwich with mats on the outside and fibers on the inside!



Lightly sprinkle your sandwich with the soapy water, just enough to get it damp. Do not overwater or it will fall part. In a circular motion, gently rub the top layer with your hand.



After a minute of rubbing, flip it over and do the same to the other side. Once each side has been rubbed for a minute, roll it up like a hot dog and rub between your hands. Adjust mats as needed.



When rubbing your mats between your hands, the felt will shrink in the direction it's rolled. Every minute or so, remove your felt from the mats, turn it 90 degrees inside the mats, and roll it back up. This will keep your felt square.



To tell if your felt is complete, do a pinch test. If you can pinch up fibers, it's not done. Keep felting! Once it's complete you can trim it and use it as a coaster or hang it on a wall as an art piece!

## For more information and instructional videos please go to www.youthfiberart.org

\*Materials may differ from ones pictured.

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This program is made available through generous support from:



Rosemary and Bavid Family Foundation

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to the legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.