

CRAFTING COMMUNITIES

SINCE 2020



TEXTILES PROJECT

For this project, you will create a textile piece out of recycled materials: either a **rag rug** or (for those who have moderate sewing skills and would prefer) a **crazy quilt**. The purpose of this project is to reflect on the history of the textile industry from the 19th century to today and consider how artists and makers engage with this industry and its histories.

Note that these are potentially large projects, but they do not need to be large for the purpose of this class. You can make a small rag rug that's big enough for a cat or one block of a crazy quilt.

By completing this assignment, you will:

- a) engage with the material culture of modern life; and
- b) reflect on how making and design are employed as critical strategies in both modern art and contemporary life.

Final submission includes: a) Photographs of your textile project (these can be photographs of work-in-progress) &/or a finished product; b) a critical reflection (500-750 words, 1.5- or double-spaced) that includes citations demonstrating your engagement with course resources; and c) a works cited page.

Instructions:

Step 1. Choose source materials and start working on your project. Instructions are available at <https://www.craftingcommunities.net/rag-rugs> and <https://www.craftingcommunities.net/crazy-quilts>. Materials provided in class, though you are welcome to use or add your own materials.

Step 2. Engage with the history of the textile industry and consider ways that modern artists like Morris and Albers responded. What makes these practices “modern” and/or “modernist”?

Step 3. Continue working on your project and remember to document your work.

Step 4. Write your Critical Reflection! This critical reflection should bring together your hands-on making with our course readings.

Work towards answering the following questions:

- What have you learned about modern material culture (specifically, textiles) and modern art from this unit? Consider what you have learned from course resources and from hands-on making and how these relate to one another.
- Does your rag rug or crazy quilt convey what you have learned? If so, in what way(s)?

Engage with at least TWO course readings, chosen from the following:

1. Dohmen on “Design reform and Indian design” and “Fashion, markets and the Kashmir shawl”
2. Hart on “Time and the Everyday in the Work of William Morris”
3. Briony Fer’s “Anni Alberts: Weaving Magic” &/or Briony Fer’s “Black Mountain College Exercises”
4. *History is Rarely Black or White* (online exhibition);

Also consider engaging with the following resources:

- a) One of the selected items from *Victorian Things* listed on the syllabus
- b) Season 1 Episode 1 of the *Victorian Samplings* podcast;