



# CRAFTKIT



## Coil Basket Craft Kit #15 Instructions

Step 1: Take the end of the yarn and the end of the coil and overlap them by about 1 inch.

Step 2: At the end of the coil, begin wrapping the yarn around the coil and the 1 inch of the yarn. As you wrap, make sure the wraps of the yarn are close together and you cannot see the coil showing through.

Step 3: Once you have wrapped about 1.5 inches of the coil with the yarn, take the part that is wrapped and fold it in half. Wrap around the coil as you were, but also the very tip so that you are securing it in place.

Step 4: Thread you needle with the yarn. Keep wrapping around the coil and every 5 to 10 wraps go through the middle with the needle to secure the current row to the middle.

Step 5: Once you have your first two circles of coils, wrap 5 to 10 times and on the last wrap go around the row below to secure it in place.

Step 6: Keep doing this until you are about to run out of either the yarn or the coil. At the end, wrap over the end of the coil and tie a knot. Cut off any extra.

For more information about the exhibition and step-by-step instructions,  
visit: [www.108contemporary.org/resources](http://www.108contemporary.org/resources)

Use the hash tag #108CraftKits when sharing your artwork on social media!



ROOTED, REVIVED, REINVENTED:

Basketry in America

# About the Show



- *Rooted, Reinvented, Revived: Basketry in America* is a travelling exhibition that explores the rich heritage of American basketry. Following the process from its origins in native cultures to its place in contemporary art, *Rooted* highlights key themes that reoccur throughout the basketry tradition. The show is divided into five topics including Cultural Origins, New Basketry, Living Traditions, Basket as Vessel, and Beyond the Basket.

# Cultural Origins of Basketry



# Cultural Origins

- Basket making is one of the oldest craft practices in the world, outdating even ceramics.
- Coil basketry is a technique used by indigenous groups throughout North America and the world, with variations in material and style. Studies have shown that no one culture developed the technique, rather many cultures developed it independently around the same time.
  - Baskets have been made using twigs, blades of grass, or other natural materials.
- Baskets have been used for many purposes, whether functional (used to hold anything from bread to herbs and medicine), or ceremonial as in Wedding Baskets (used by Navajo tribes, this holds cornmeal that is given to both the couple and guests.)



# Navajo Basketry

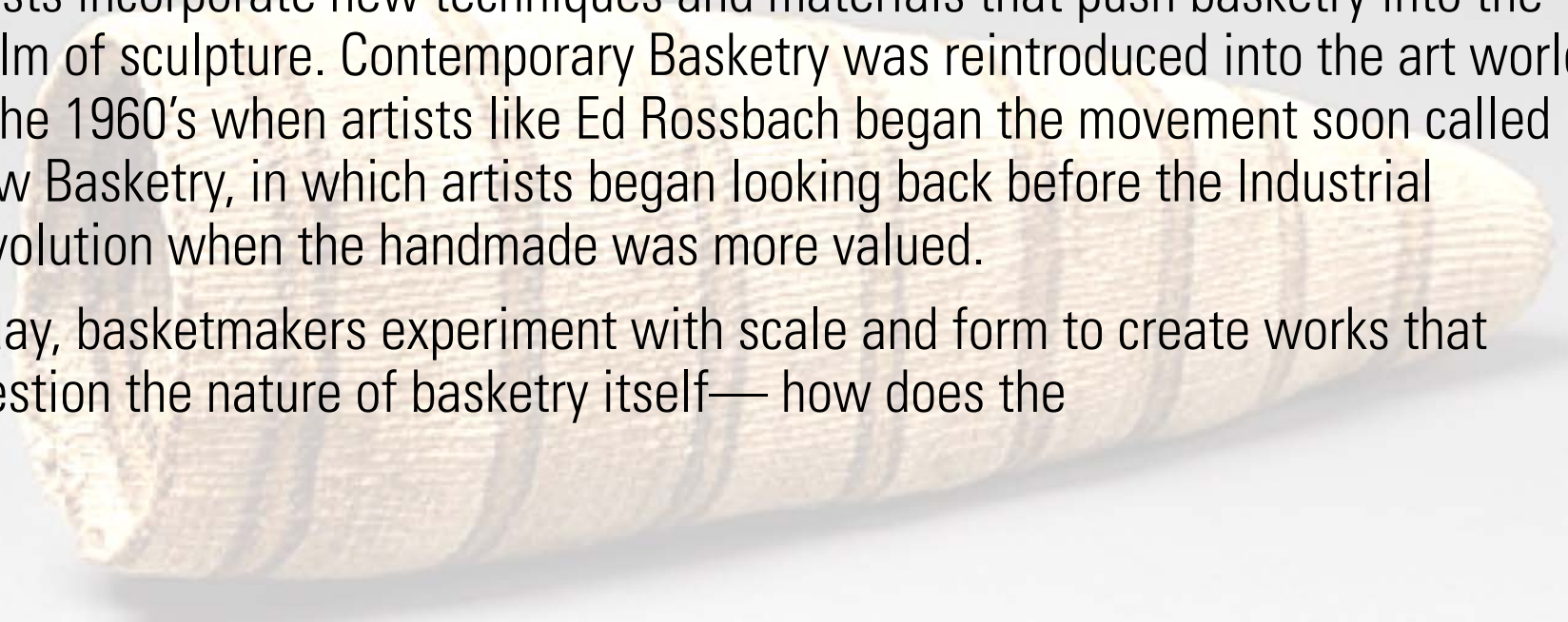
- In Navajo baskets, every element has meaning:
  - The beige, the natural color of the fiber, represents the Navajo people and their emergence from a cave into the world.
  - The red represent the earth and family.
  - The black represents the hardships one experience throughout life.
  - These colors interact through the pattern to represent the journey through the trials and celebrations of life from birth.



Navajo Wedding Basket, at UBC's Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, BC, Canada

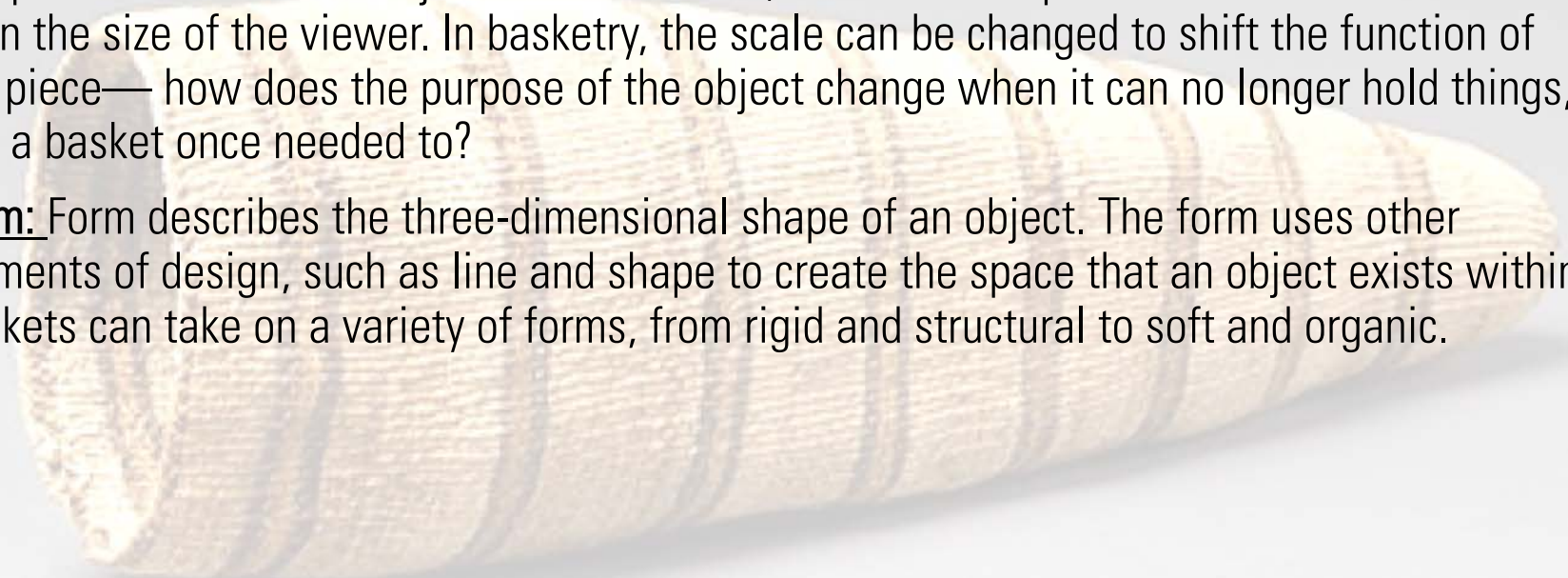
# Traditional vs. Contemporary Basketry

- While contemporary basketry is in many ways similar to its traditional past, artists incorporate new techniques and materials that push basketry into the realm of sculpture. Contemporary Basketry was reintroduced into the art world in the 1960's when artists like Ed Rossbach began the movement soon called New Basketry, in which artists began looking back before the Industrial Revolution when the handmade was more valued.
- Today, basketmakers experiment with scale and form to create works that question the nature of basketry itself— how does the



# Visual Art Key Terms

- **Scale**: Scale refers to the relationship between the size of two or more objects. Size can be compared between two objects within a work, or can be compared to its environment or even the size of the viewer. In basketry, the scale can be changed to shift the function of the piece— how does the purpose of the object change when it can no longer hold things, like a basket once needed to?
- **Form**: Form describes the three-dimensional shape of an object. The form uses other elements of design, such as line and shape to create the space that an object exists within. Baskets can take on a variety of forms, from rigid and structural to soft and organic.





How would you describe the form and scale of these works?

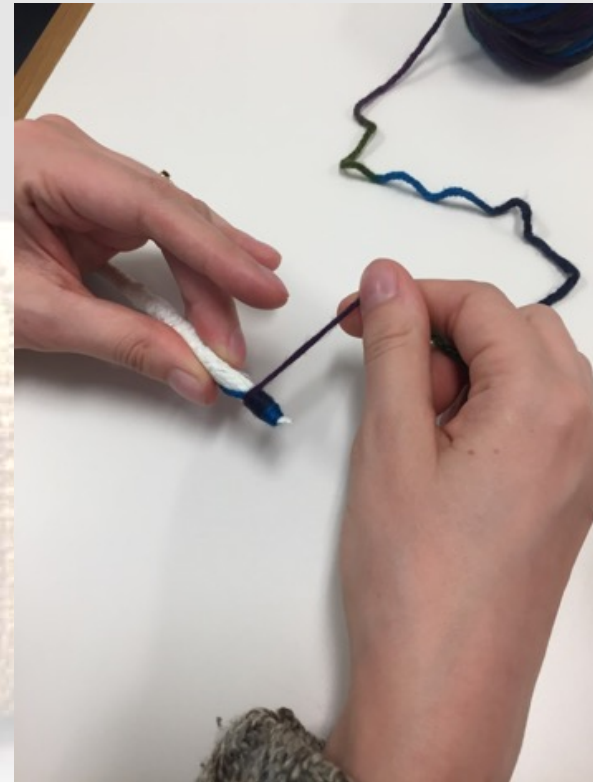




# Coiled Basket Craft Kit: Instructions

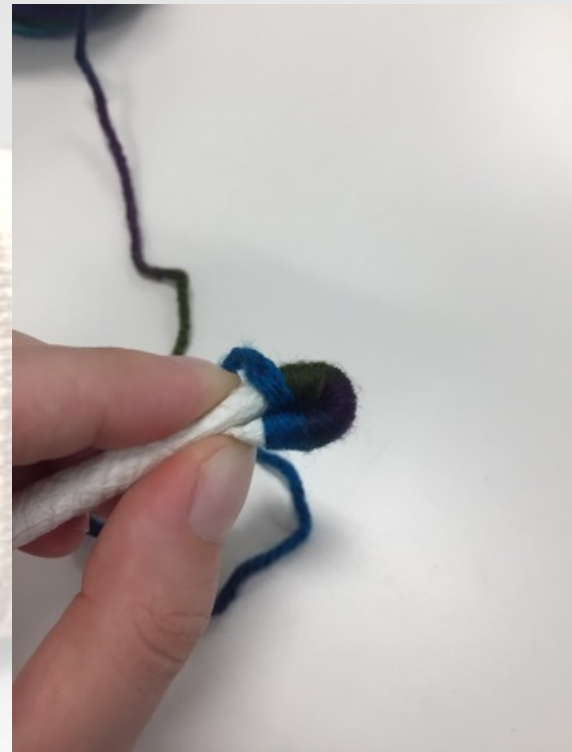
# Step One

Cut a length of yarn about 3 feet long. Take the end of the yarn and the end of the coil and overlap them by about 1 inch.



## Step Two

At the end of the coil, begin wrapping the yarn around the coil and the 1-inch of the yarn. As you wrap, make sure the wraps of the yarn are close together and you cannot see the coil showing through.





## Step Three

Step 3: Once you have wrapped about 1.5 inches of the coil with the yarn, take the part that is wrapped and fold it in half. Wrap around the coil as you were, but also the very tip so that you are securing it in place.



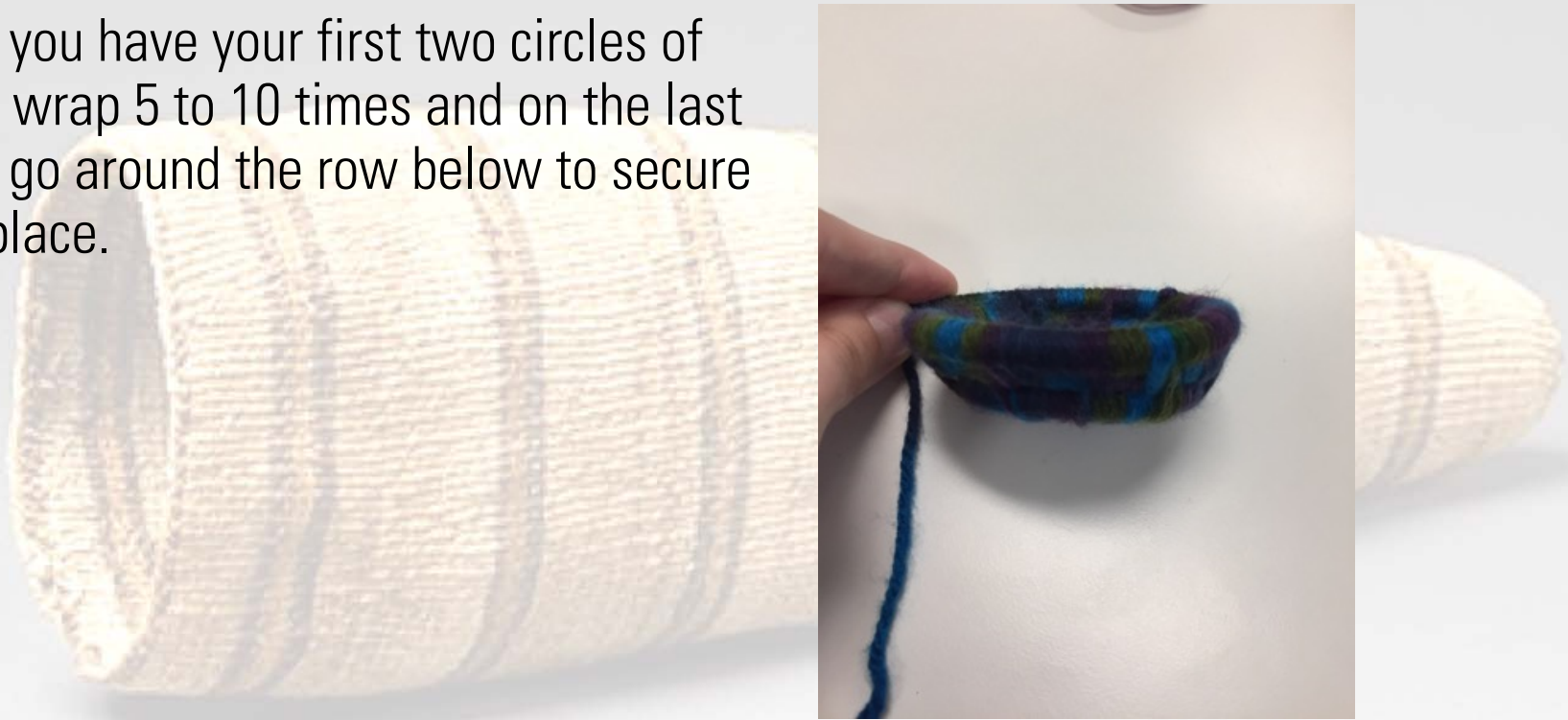
## Step Four

Thread you needle with the yarn. Keep wrapping around the coil and every 5 to 10 wraps go through the middle with the needle to secure the current row to the middle.



## Step Five

Once you have your first two circles of coils, wrap 5 to 10 times and on the last wrap go around the row below to secure it in place.



Done!





# Additional Resources on Basketry

- <http://www.indiansummer.com/baskets.htm>
- [http://basketweaving.com/shopsite\\_sc/store/html/history-of-basketweaving.html](http://basketweaving.com/shopsite_sc/store/html/history-of-basketweaving.html)
- <http://www.nativetech.org/basketry/coilindex.html>

