

# Craft Kit #34 - Textile Self-Portrait



Diane Savona

Art & Archeology

November 6, 2020 – January 17, 2021

108 CONTEMPORARY

*Art. Craft. Design.*

# Art & Archeology

This exhibition will open at 108 | Contemporary November 6, 2020 – January 17, 2021. The following images are of work on exhibition. As you examine these pieces, here are some visual thinking strategies to use. First, take 10-15 seconds to examine the image in silence. Next, ask yourself the following questions.

- 1. What do I see that makes me say that?**
- 2. What do I think is going on?**
- 3. What more can I find?**

There are no wrong answers! When you view fine art and craft, your experience will be unique and personal. Perhaps the person next to you will have different answers to the same questions. By hearing each other's perspectives, we may find new and exciting ways to interpret each work.





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# About the Artist: Diane Savona



- East-coast fiber artist Diane Savona uses her artworks as a means of historic preservation. She incorporates household objects found at garage and estate sales. She calls these “archaeological digs.”
- Several motifs are centered around the tools of various fiber practices. Do you recognize some of these tools in her work?
- What are some stereotypes about fiber craft (sewing, crochet, quilting, weaving, embroidery, etc.)? How do you think Savona views those practices? What evidence do you see in her art?





# What is Archaeology?

- Archaeology is the study of past cultures through the material remains people left behind. Archaeologists use these remains to understand and re-create all aspects of past culture.
- Often, these objects are buried and have to be carefully uncovered or excavated before they can be studied. In many cases, they are the only clues archaeologists have to help them reconstruct the lives of ancient people.
- On the left is an archaeological dig display at Crailo State Historic Site in Rensselaer, New York. How would you compare it to Diane Savona's work?

# Diane Savona's Work

Now that you know more about the artist and her perspective:

- Where and how do you see the connection between the artist's work and archaeology?
- Some of Savona's "Garment Portrait" series are 5 to 6 feet tall! Can you identify which images might be part of this series? What do you think "Garment Portrait" means?
- When planning a piece, Savona typically photographs her "archaeological" finds and uses Photoshop to manipulate those images into a collage. She uses the digital collage as a guide for pinning and sewing.



# Textile Self-Portrait Step-by-Step Instructions



Diane Savona's artistic process the principles of collage. "Garment Portrait" series uses textiles and found items to create figures that represent our values as a society. Let's create our own self-portraits in this style!

# Materials

- Plain base—cardboard, cardstock, felt or poster board work well
- Small fabric scraps
- Pen or pencil
- Glue
- Scissors



# Step One

Draw an outline of your head or body on the base. It doesn't have to be perfect!



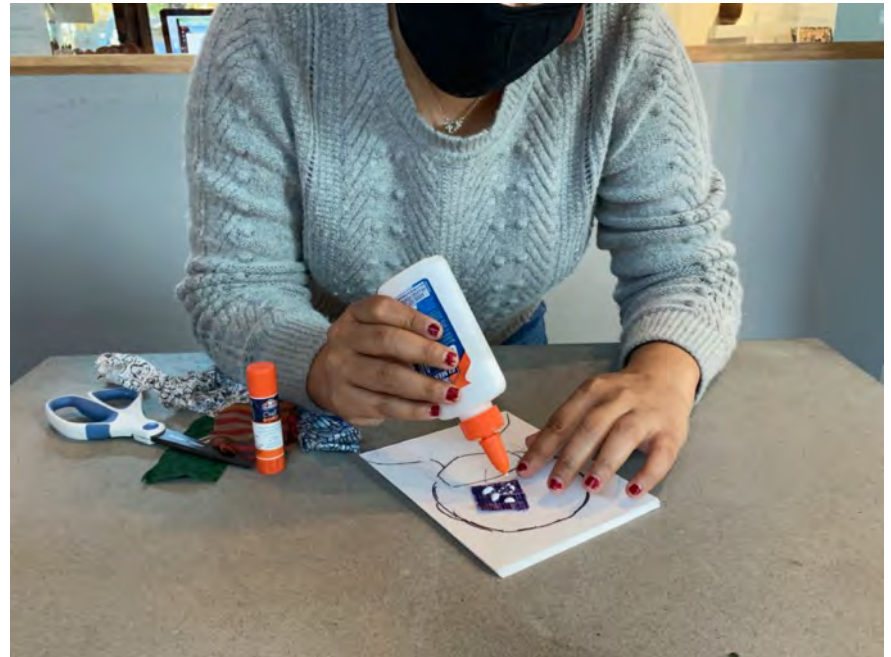
## Step Two

Cut your fabric into smaller shapes.



# Step Three

Use glue to attach your fabric shapes to the base. Keep layering until you fill the outline you drew.



## Step Four

Layer, fray, or twist fabric scraps to create a 3-D effect. What other found objects can you add?





## Step Five



Let the glue dry and display your new self-portrait!

# Step Six

Share your creations with the @108\_Contemporary Instagram with the hashtag #108craftkits!

## Options:

- Glue paper clips, safety pins, bottle caps, or other flat items to your base before you add fabric. We found that this worked best when we used liquid glue instead of a glue stick. How does this change your finished piece?
- Tear or fold your fabric instead of cutting it to add dimension.
- No fabric scraps? No problem! Use junk mail, newspaper, gift wrap, or construction paper to create your self-portrait.



# Other Resources

- Visit [108 Contemporary.org](http://108contemporary.org) for more information about the exhibition.
- Visit Diane Savona's website <http://www.dianesavonaart.com/>
- Watch a short video of [Diane Savona, Textile Artist | State of the Arts](#) on PBS
- See Savona talk about her process [in this video](#)