

Crochet Creations

Inspired by *Untitled* (2016) by Michelle Grabner. Bronze.
Purchase, William G. Roehrick '34 Art Acquisition and Preservation Fund



Materiality

Materiality is defined as "the quality or character of being material or composed of matter". Materiality is how art's material qualities are sensed, interpreted, and understood.

The Project

In this project, we will look at Michelle Grabner's *Untitled* (2016) to investigate materiality.

This series of sculptures were cast from hand-crocheted and hand-knitted blankets. Through the casting process, the blankets lose their softness and become durable objects. The final sculptures are rigid and do not require human hands to hold them up, showing how much they have changed from their original forms.

It would be difficult to cast our own blankets in bronze, but we can perform a similar process at home with materials you may already own.

For this project, we will be crocheting a "granny square" to use as our base. A granny square is the name for a crochet square that has multiple layers of granny clusters, or a group of 3 double crochets. All three double crochets are placed in one stitch or space and separated with chains from other clusters.

If you do not know how to crochet a granny square already, the next sheet gives simple instructions. All you need is some yarn and a crochet hook, both of which you can find at your local craft store or online.

There are also many different ways you can make your granny square stiff. You can use mod podge, paint, or glue. Be creative with what you already own!

1. Crochet a granny square.
2. Using the material of your choice, coat one side of your granny square. Leave it on a piece of paper to dry, with the painted side facing up.
3. Once that side is dry, flip it over and coat the other side.
4. When that side is dry as well, you can display the granny square however you would like.

What do you notice about how the material feels, how it bends, and how it looks? How has it changed? What is the same? How could you make your square more like a sculpture?

How to Crochet a "Granny Square"

1. Make a slip knot. Chain 4, then slip stitch the last chain to the first chain. This will create a ring for you to crochet your first round in.
2. Chain 3. These three chains will count as your first double crochet, which I will abbreviate with dc from now on.
3. Make 2 dc into the center of the ring. With the first dc, this is your first granny cluster!
4. Chain 2. Crochet 3 dc into the center again to create the next granny cluster. Repeat 2 more times until you have 4 clusters.
5. Chain 2 and close your round by slip stitching the last chain into the third chain of the chains you've started your round with.
6. Now you will start your next round. Chain 4. Then in the corner space of the previous round, crochet 3dc.
7. Chain 2, and then make another 3dc in the **same** corner space. Now you have your next corner.
8. Continue all the way around your square, chaining 1 in between corners to create a chain space. In your final corner, be sure to crochet 2dc instead of 3dc because 3 of the 4 chains from step 6 count as a dc.
9. Slip stitch your last dc to the third chain of your first three chains, and you're done with this round as well.
10. For the next round, chain 3, and then crochet 2 dc into the chain space.
11. Repeat what you did last round. Make 3dc, 2 chains, and 3dc in the same corner space. Chain 1 to create a chain-space, and crochet 3dc in the next chain-space of the previous round. Repeat all the way around your square.
12. Finally, close the round with a slip stitch in the third chain of your starting three chains.
13. Congratulations, you have finished your first granny square!

