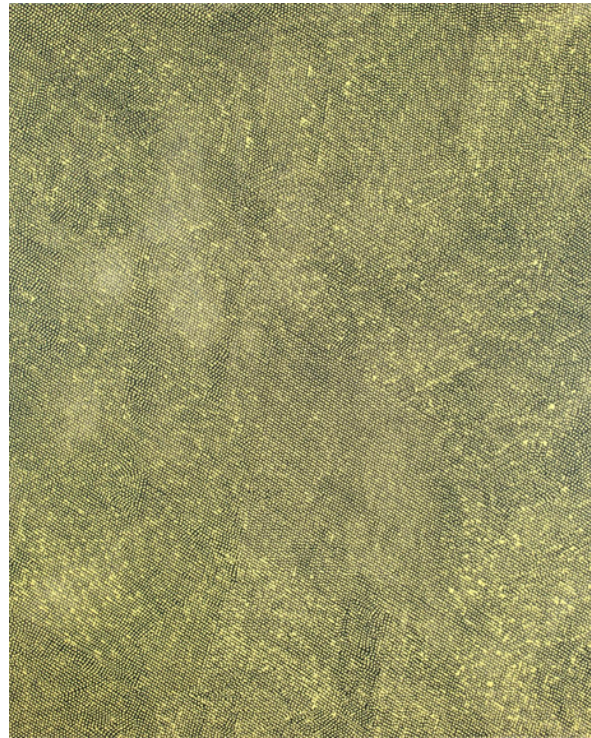


# Paper Weavings

## Inspired by the Work of Michelle Grabner



Michelle Grabner, *Untitled*, 2005. Painting on wood panel, 44" x 45". Gift of Nancy Mladenoff and J.J. Murphy.



Michelle Grabner, *Camp Netting*, 1996. Enamel on panel, 30" x 24". Purchase, through funds from Arts Midwest's members and friends in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Michelle Grabner** is a teacher, writer, artist, and art critic. Her works focus largely on process and repetition. Her abstract patterns push compositional limits to find the tipping point between stability and insecurity and between continuance and difference. Shifting what is normally unobserved into critical sight is foundational to her work.

## BACKGROUND

There are many interesting connections between weaving and mathematics. For instance, the first computer program was created by a weaver. In the early 1800s, Joseph Jacquard created an automated loom that could weave complex designs according to a punched card that was fed into the machine. There is also the concept of String Theory in physics, which is the idea that reality is made up of extremely tiny strings that are smaller than atoms and are woven together to make up everything that we perceive.

## VOCABULARY

**Weaving**: the craft or action of forming fabric by interlacing threads.

**Loom**: an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.

**Abstract Art**: art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures.

**Pattern**: a repeated decorative design.

## MATERIALS

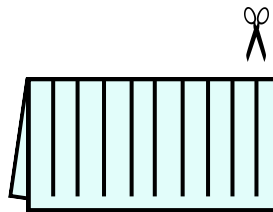
- 2 sheets of colored construction paper - variation: white paper will work but will require more coloring in of the space
- Coloring materials such as colored pencils, crayons, markers, or all of the above.
- Scissors
- Glue

## INSTRUCTIONS

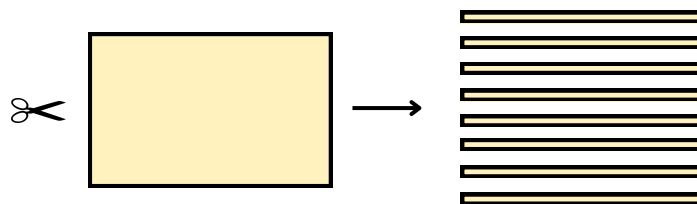
- 1.) Gather all of your materials.
- 2.) Color in and draw abstract designs on the two sheets of paper. You are welcome to look at the works of Michelle Grabner (above) for inspiration. Think about what kinds of patterns you would like to create.
- 3.) Take one of the sheets of paper and fold it in half the long way.



- 4.) Starting from the folded edge, cut slits into the paper about 1 inch apart, but do not cut all of the way through.



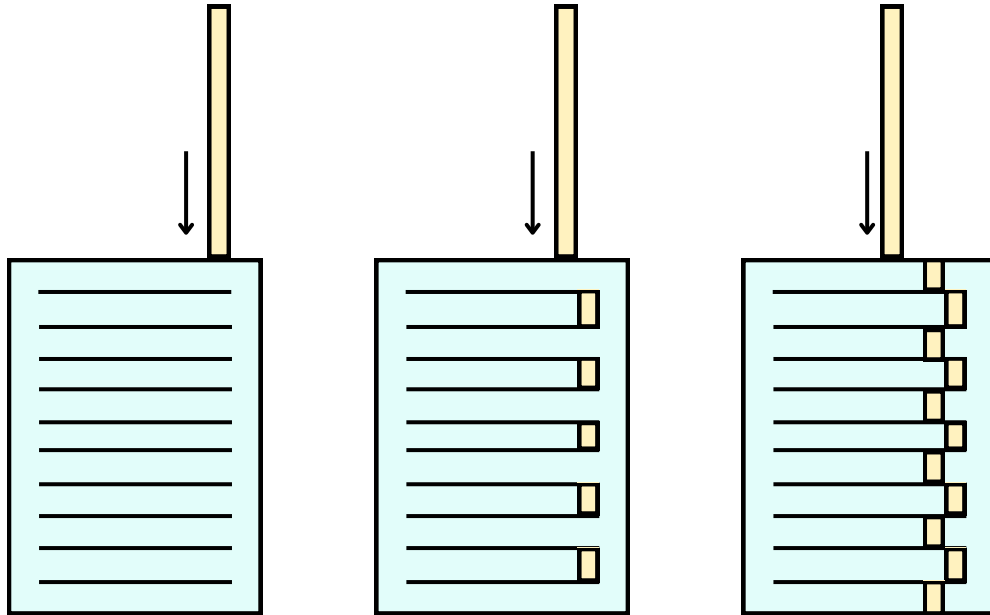
- 5.) Take the other sheet of paper and cut it into strips (about 1 inch thick) going the long way.



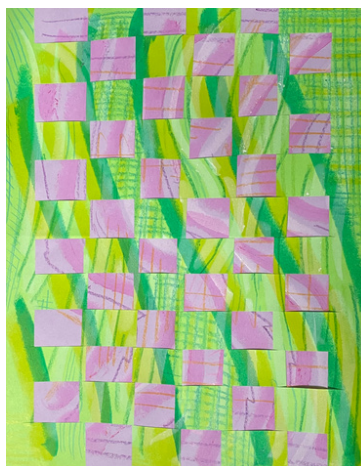
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6.) Take one of the strips and weave through your paper loom going over-under-over-under until the strip reached the other side. The next strip will start on the opposite of how the previous strip started. So if the first strip started with over, then the second strip starts with under. Each strip will alternate. You will have extra strips at the end.

- Note: there are some great tutorials on paper weaving on YouTube if you need additional visuals.



7.) Once you are finished weaving, glue the end of each strip down on both sides of the paper.



Activity example.