

# Chenille Stem Stitchery

## Based on the simplistic design style of Joan Miró

Spanish painter Joan Miró is known for his playful art. Although he was a world renowned artist, his work gives the impression it could have been created by a child. Miró was interested in reducing characters to their simplest forms and using very basic, bright colors. He felt some of the best ideas were inspired by the simplest things.

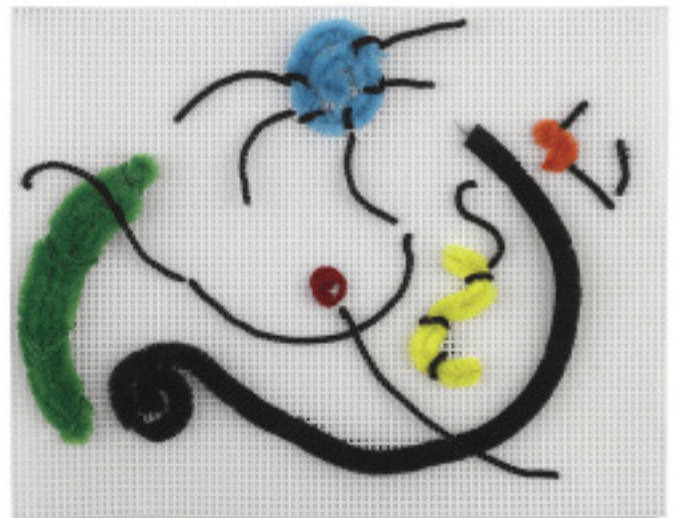
After reviewing some of Joan Miró's later paintings, it is evident that even very young students can create a work of art fashioned after Miró. Using Chenille Stems and stitchery canvas, this project is clean and easy for any classroom.

### Grade Levels K-6

*Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

### Preparation

1. View examples of Joan Miró's art. Recommended resources:  
[Taschen Book Series Famous Artists, Miró](#)  
 (70033-1062)  
[Artists of the 20th Century DVDs, Miró](#)  
 (70096-1004)
2. Cut Colossal Stems in half.



### Process

1. Students plan out their Miró design and draw it directly on the plastic canvas using erasable crayons. The crayons will allow for any "mistakes" to be removed and the design to be reworked.
2. Using a variety of colors and sizes of Chenille Kraft Stems, "stitch" the design into the canvas weaving the stem in and out of the holes. The stems are stiff and don't require a needle for stitching - they are also flexible enough to bend in and out of the holes in the canvas. The stems can be cut with scissors for students who want to work with smaller amounts of color at a time. Fill in large color areas with the Colossal Stems and make finer lines and details by using the smaller stems. Make sure to stitch in and out closely together to alleviate the canvas from showing through if that is the desired result.

### Materials

[Chenille Kraft® Colossal Stems](#), 19-1/2", pkg of 50 assorted colors (61140-5009); share one pkg across class

[Chenille Kraft® Stems](#), assorted, pkg of 100 assorted colors (60923-); share 5-6 pkgs across class

[Colorful Plastic Canvas](#), 10-1/2" x 13-1/2", White (63103-1044); one per student

[Snippy® Scissors](#) pointed, package of 12 (57040-2009); need one pair per student

[Faber-Castell® Erasable Crayons](#), set of 25 (67808-1025); share two sets across the class

3. When each stem is used to its' fullest, bend the tip to the back of the canvas it so it is not sticking out the front.

### Options

- Study other artists, perhaps the impressionists, to inspire a design. Use colors and shapes to represent the artist of choice.

### National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

**K-4** Students use art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner

**5-8** Students select media, techniques, and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

Content Standard #3 Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

**K-4** Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art

**5-8** Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks