
DIY Dream Catcher with Emily Katz

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(lively instrumental music) - My name is Emily Katz. I'm a macrame artist, designer, and I've taught classes all around the country. You can find my work on blogs, and in Japanese design magazines. Today, I'm gonna teach you a modern, sophisticated version of the classic dream catcher. Using a brass ring as a frame, we'll use a synthetic sinew to weave a web, incorporating found objects, such as beads and feathers. Traditionally, these were hung over people's beds to capture their bad dreams. But you could really hang it anywhere in your home as a piece of art. I love how each one is like a spiderweb, totally unique and individual. (instrumental music fades)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- You can find all of the objects that you need for this project at the craft store. I started with a brass ring. And since we're gonna make kind of a larger piece today, it's a 19-inch brass ring. And then the next thing that you need is sinew. It's an artificial sinew. This is a 20-yard roll, which is going to be plenty for all of your projects. It's a cotton rope that has been coated in wax, so it's nice and sticky, and it helps with keeping it together. Then comes your found objects. Here I'm using an antler bone bead that has a nice, big hole in it to put the sinew through. And also I have some feathers that already have little loops attached to make it simple to attach to the sinew. You also need a pair of scissors. This applies to any size dreamcatcher that you want to make, whether it's this 19-inch piece, or if you want to make a much smaller piece. The technique is the same.

Chapter 3 - Make Dream Catcher

Create dream catcher web pattern

- Some people look at this and think it's really complicated. But I can tell you now that it's quite simple and you're going to learn how. To begin, you'll make a loop at the top to hang your dreamcatcher from, and continue around the ring to create the pattern that will eventually make the web. First, I'm gonna take the sinew and open it up a little bit so I can attach it to the ring. So you want to unravel a nice amount and then tie your first knot. This is where the loop will begin at the very top. You might want to just tie two, just to make sure that it's secure. And you can leave this short or long. And later you can add a found object to it, or you can just cut it off at the base. To make that loop you're going to take the roll of sinew and sort of pass it through. And tie a knot there. And there's your loop at the top. About five inches from the original knot at the top, you're going to put the sinew over and then through and pull it taut. You're not actually making a knot here. It's simply going over the brass and then through that loop that you've made with the sinew. We're going to continue that technique of making the loops around the brass ring, all the way around. And that will be the basis for our pattern. I'm eyeballing every five or so inches. I'm not much of a measurer. But it doesn't really matter if it's exact. As I said before, each web is like its own unique little masterpiece. When you get to the end, you're going to want to join the last piece of sinew up right where you started with the first one. There you've made your first round. Next we're going to take the sinew and go through each of the loops in the pattern that we've already made. Instead of going through the brass ring, you want to make sure you're going through those sinew

loops. And then we'll keep going around in a circle to create the pattern. So now I'm going in here through that loop and creating my first stitch. And we're just gonna follow the pattern. So remember, we're just going through the stitches you've already done, the sinew loop to create that loop. It kind of creates these triangle shapes here. I'm just gonna go around in a circle all the way around. And you want to try to make sure that you're going through the center, so that it's a pretty even shape. If you make the stitch instead closer to the edge, then the shape won't be as symmetrical. It will be a little bit wonky. So I think it's better to go right in the middle so that the tension is nice. And so that the pattern is more consistent. So once you get to here you can skip that first one and jump over to the next one over here. We're going around for the third time. And the triangles here kind of turn into a diamond shape as the sinew pulls. As you can see, this really is a simple technique. I'm going to continue going around in a circle for a little bit longer, and then we'll add our first object. You want to remember to pull the sinew pretty taut, so that the shapes keep their form. Otherwise it'll get kind of saggy. And make sure, also, that when you're going through that you double back in through that loop that you've made to create that, it's not an actual knot, but it's a little bit more than just looping it through. To add our first found object, which is this little bone antler bead that I have. You're gonna have to cut the sinew so you can get it through the hole. So just about three or four yards. You can always tie on more later, because it's pretty sticky. So I'm going to take the bead and put the sinew through the hole. You really can use any object, like I was saying before. It could be a special heirloom. It could be a shell. It could be a glass bead. So you just want to put that on there and then bring it down. This shape is nice because it'll have some dimension to it. You're going to want to make that same slip again, sort of slip knot that we've been doing this whole time to anchor that piece. Make sure it's nice and taut. Before I continue, I'm gonna make it a little easier on myself and take this end of the rope and wrap it into a little ball. This will make it a little easier for me to continue going around in the pattern that I've been creating. As you can see, it's pretty sticky, which makes it really easy to work with. So here I'm just going to continue as I was going before. If you'd like to skip a loop, like I'm doing here to go on to the next one, it creates a rectangle shape. And I think that this makes a nice frame for the found object. And then I'm just going to continue going through each triangle. But there really isn't a wrong way at this point. You could make more square, triangle shapes. It's up to you. Here I think I'm going to add another object. This time I'm gonna take a feather. You add it in the same way that you added the other piece. So I'm gonna string, again, the sinew through that loop. And bring it down. And do that same action. I'm gonna go back through the loop that I'd already gone through to create a little bit more tension to keep that feather in place. All right, and then I'm just gonna continue. If you're a collector of feathers, this is a really great way to make a nice keepsake from them. Move it out of the way to keep going around. And again, I'm gonna skip this one, right by where the feather is, to just give it a little bit of room. And you can pull it taut so that it doesn't collapse in on itself. The tighter that you pull the sinew, the different the shape of the triangle's gonna be. This is more equilateral triangle, as you can see, as I pull it more tightly. And here we're getting close to the end. The triangles get smaller and smaller. You might have to thread the sinew through. All right, I think we're getting to a good spot to end. To finish this off, you're going to make just a simple knot. And make sure that you pull it tight. You can put your fingernail on it to make sure it's nice and tight in the center there. And then if you want, you can take what's left and you can add another found object. I'm gonna do that here with my other piece of antler bone, and put it through. And I think I'm gonna have it sort of dangle down a little bit. So I'm gonna take the tiny bit of end and I'm just gonna tie a knot. And then just one more time. And see that it'll hang down in a nice place. And then

finally, I'll take the scissors and I'll just cut that end right there. It's fine to cut it pretty close because the sinew is so sticky. So you can kind of mold that little bit of end by twisting. You can kind of stick it, also, into the hole a little bit. And there you are. Now that you've completed your first dreamcatcher, there's so many other ways that you can incorporate your found objects and collections into other kinds of dreamcatchers. I made another smaller one here by putting someone's birthstone in the center. It makes a really great gift. Instead of using a brass ring, you could use any number of other things. You could use a wooden embroidery hoop. You could use branches you've collected from the forest. The sinew is such a good center because it really is taut and it has such a nice shape. But you could experiment with using cotton rope, or you could use other colors. There are so many fun ways that you can create your own unique dreamcatcher.