

Project Name

Textured Textile Tote Bags

Featured Image



Project Description

Let [Mode Brut](#) inspired tote bags carry craft and design practices into the new year! Highlighting the tactical expertise of [Creativity Explored](#) (CE) artists, tote bags are proudly displayed as part of CE's Studio Line in the museum.

This MCD@Home project invites participants to craft functional fashion that will accompany any outfit. Sustainability in the fashion industry is an underlying theme of *Mode Brut*, with the majority of garments having been made of reused and recycled fabrics. In that spirit, this project challenges participants to dig into the pantry or backseat to reimagine and transform existing bags from your inevitable tote hoard.

Flex the textile techniques you've learned throughout *Mode Brut* to create a tote design unique to you!

Recommended Age Level

Recommended for ages 7+ with adult supervision.

Materials

- Found tote bag
- Suggested textile alteration materials:
 - Needle
 - Embroidery floss
 - Embroidery ring (Optional)
 - Sharpies or fabric markers
 - Scissors
 - Fabric patches
 - Fabric glue
 - Dye

Image Gallery







Image Caption

Altering a tote bag using sharpies, fabric markers, and embroidery floss.

Instructions

- Think about your design! What tools and materials do you have at your disposal? How can you use them to embellish your tote bag and make it stand out? Get inspired by our design prompts below!
- Draw directly onto the fabric using sharpies and/or fabric markers.
- Embroider the fabric of the tote bag. Check out [Katherine Finn-Gamino's Felt Embroidered Flowers](#) for embroidery tips and ideas!
 - *OPTIONAL*: Use the embroidery loop to hold the fabric in place. Position the larger ring onto the outside of the fabric bag and fit the smaller loop into the larger loop while inside the bag. Tighten the embroidery ring.
- Recycle old favorite tshirts cutting out the logo or image and sewing or glueing it onto the tote
- Make a pocket from a scrap piece of upholstery fabric or repurpose a pocket from an old pair of jeans. Sew or glue it onto the tote.
- Create a super tote by cutting 2 totes open, or in half, and sewing them together!
- Use fabric dye and some rubber bands to transform your project with the shibori techniques shown in JD Green's [Textile Transformations!](#)

Related Resources

- Feeling like you've got this in the bag? Make a [drawstring bag](#), [duffel bag](#), or [fanny pack](#) from reused fabrics.
- Tote bags are a greener alternative to plastic bags but their overproduction has its own environmental impact. Craft sustainably by embellishing an

existing bag and read Grace Cook's New York Times' article [The Cotton Tote Crisis](#) to learn more.

- Read Anni Irish's [A History of the Humble Tote Bag](#) article on Racked to learn more about tote bag designs through the ages.