

WOOL FELTED GOURD

Original Workshop Taught by Monika Schaefer

Materials:

Clean Gourd	Plastic Table Cloth
Large, old Towel	Bubble Wrap (small Bubbles)
Sheer Curtain Fabric	Ivory Soap/ Eco-friendly Liquid Soap
Wool (variety of colours)	Felting Needle
Silk Thread (any colour)	Scissors



- 1) Choose a clean gourd. It should be a size that you can make a felt piece that will cover it.
- 2) Cover a table with plastic to protect it, if necessary.
- 3) Lay a large, old towel on top of the plastic.
- 4) Put a layer of small bubble wrap on top of the towel.
- 5) Using a bar of wet *ivory* soap or a few drops of eco-friendly liquid soap in water, rub the surface of the bubble wrap and work it into a smooth, foamy soapy layer.
- 6) Select two or three colours of roving (fibres/strands of wool). Colours can go on the top and bottom or in splotches but **MUST** overlap each other.
- 7) Lay a thin layer of your base colour roving fibres on the soapy bubble wrap. Be sure to lay them all in one direction.
- 8) Continue laying roving in opposite directions on each subsequent layer. If you want, use a variety of colours. *Be sure to alternate the direction of the roving fibres on each layer and overlap different colours.* Continue layering until you have a thick cloud (four to six layers or more if your layers are thin).
- 9) On the last layer, add a few silk threads for highlights.
- 10) Place a layer of sheer fabric (*like curtain sheers*) over the entire layered cloud of roving.
- 11) Spray/sprinkle this with water and rub with soap and your hands to meld the fibres. **RUB & RUB & RUB!**
- 12) Carefully remove the layer of sheer fabric (Try not to disturb the wool roving underneath).
- 13) Gently flip the felted fibres over so the silk thread is on the bottom of the felt.
- 14) Roll the gourd over the felt, wrapping it around the gourd. If needed, trim the felt at the bottom to have less bulk.
- 15) Rub the entire gourd with hands and soap. Pay attention to the overlap areas and rub them well. You can use the bubble wrap over the felt to rub as well. If any of the seams are not melded, use a felting needle to pull them together.
- 16) Let dry.

