



**Judi grew up in the “big snow” area of northern Michigan (USA) in a time when thrift, recycling and traditional crafts and the philosophy of “passing it on” was the norm.**

**Judi says....** I remember thinking it was pure magic as my grandmother and her friends took ugly scraps of fabric and changed them into beautiful art works - braided rugs, artwork quilts and other practical creations.

After retiring from a career as a consultant (2007) I had the time to focus on my interest in crafts and fibre art and my thoughts turned back to grandmothers rag rugs but I quickly learned that the traditional (rag) rug craft which came to Australia with the transported migrants, had all but disappeared and the necessary tools, books, equipment and even backing fabric wasn't (still isn't) produced or available in Australia. It took me over two years of self-education and surfing the Net to locate and import the items needed to equip my basic workshop and studio.

As an educator, the concept of sharing knowledge, skills and information - “passing it on” - was important to me, so I joined the quietly growing Australian Guild of rug crafters working to save and revive this traditional craft (still confused with “latch hooking”). At last, the craft of hand-hooking traditional “rugs” (a term that now includes floor and wall mats, as well as 3-dimensional installations and wearable art) has re-emerged on a small scale in Australia as both art and craft.

My interest in working with fibre means that I've come full circle and suddenly feel part of my grandmother's “rugging bee ladies” and the artisans I've met over the years. Rug hooking is slow and repetitive but it is this aspect of the process that drives me to create. The unhurried nature of the craft takes me on a journey that gives me time to reflect on the both the subject of my work and the materials I use.

I believe that continuing to hand-on (might we say “recycle”?) the basic skills associated with this

craft, serves to pay tribute to, the ingenuity and creativity of our grandmother's and other skilled migrants.



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# Working in Three-dimensions: *Incorporate Waldoboro (Sculpting) into your work*

By Judi Tompkins

## Hooking Skills:



Beginner to intermediate: If you already know how to do the two basic rug crafting techniques (hooking and prodding/progging) you can work in 3-D.

Class size limited to 10-12 (will consider more if participants are “advanced” hookers).

## What will you do?

- Hook and prod one or two of the pre-drawn basic shapes – this exercise is intended as a “warm up” for intermediate hookers and a starting point for new hookers.
- Start work on the second more complex piece.

## What is provided for the workshop:

- Instruction brochure for Waldoboro basics.
- 2 projects drawn on Hessian
  - A. Hessian drawn with basic shape (which can be modified).
  - B. Second design (modify if you want) drawn on hessian square (16” x 16”) - you then begin to hook and sculpt according to “your” plan.
- Small hook (beginner) and dolly peg prodder. You may want to bring your own hook/prodder if you have them. Note: tools will be available for purchase on the day from other vendors.
- Learn how to quickly modify a design to “your” plan.
- Develop a strategy to approach complex Waldoboro designs.

## What you need to bring:

- Scissors – particularly a pair with sharp tips since you will need to accurately clip loops & shear small areas.
- Small rug frame or embroidery hoop (10” dia will be enough). I will have small embroidery hoops available for the first project but you may wish to use a larger frame or hoop for the second project. Frames will also be available for sale.
- Permanent markers (several colours) so you can draw/modify a design

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Below is an example of a hooked 3D project; a series of connected blocks that can be moved around to show various designs on the open faces.

