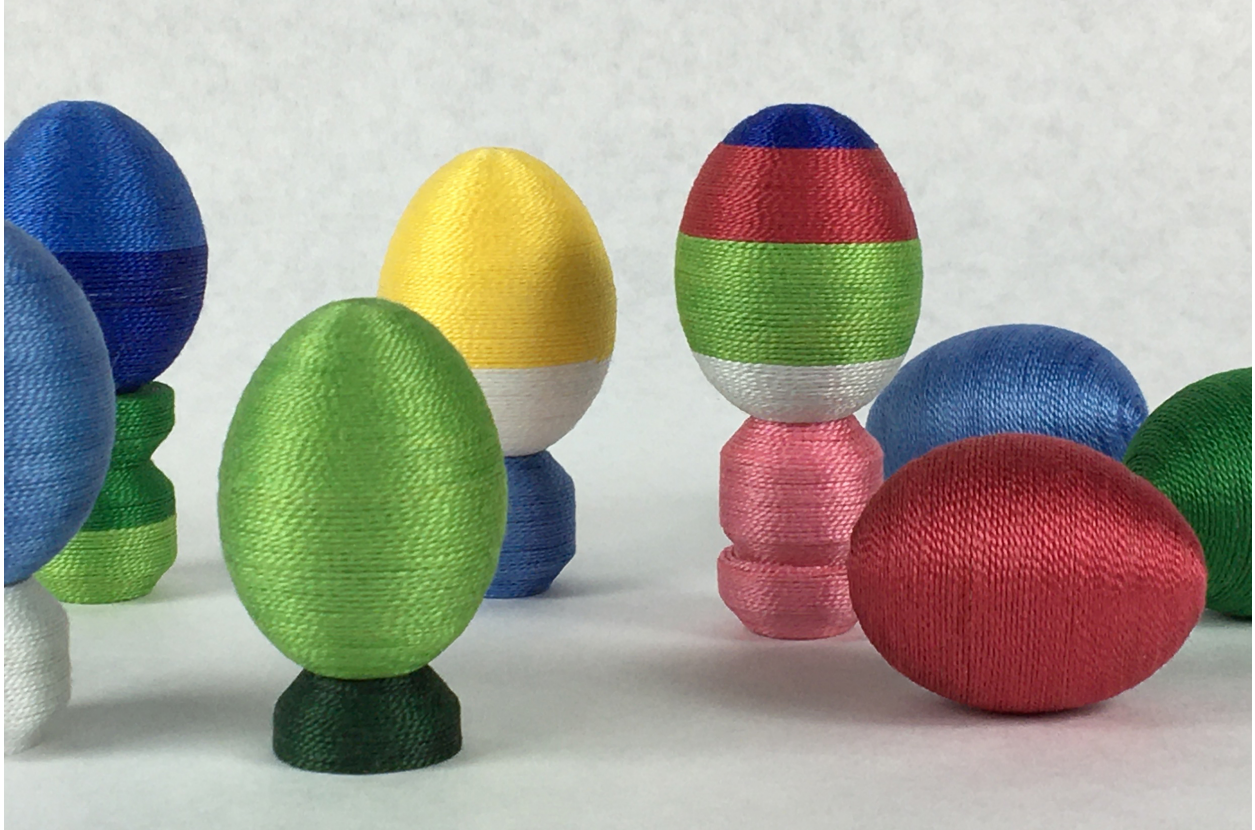


Eggsistential Crisis

with Jolie Bird



Undoubtedly we are all experiencing the sudden life-altering changes brought on by COVID-19. Adjusting to life in isolation has meant some families living with little break from one another while others have been separated from their loved ones for months. The loss of income for many people, adjusting to homeschooling and working from home, the immense pressures thrust upon our medical services, and the constant stream of horrifying news coverage from around the globe have been challenging to say the least.

Eggsistential Crisis is intended to distract you, if only for an afternoon, and encourage you to meditate on the healing benefits of making something with your hands. Learn how to transform ordinary household items into beautiful art objects by encasing them in a new skin made entirely from glue and thread. Wrapping objects in thread is a simple process but requires a love for detail and patience. Throughout this video, I will show you how to wrap an egg and how to apply these same steps to other objects found throughout your home. I hope this exercise offers you some peace of mind and inspires you to create new and beautiful works of art.

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Tools:

yarn- look for something with some structure and not a lot of stretch, e.g. linen, cotton, ply yarn, experiment with what you have in your home

a sharp pair of scissor

a needle, small nail or push pin

a clean egg

a bowl

glue- I'm using a UHU glue that is non-toxic, dries clear and is suitable for many surfaces.

Use something that dries clear, stays tacky for a few minutes and is thin enough to apply a thin layer

a pin or toothpick

masking tape



Estimate time: 3-4 hours

How to blow out an egg:

-get an egg from the fridge

-wash it off with warm soapy water then dry

-(optional) draw a dot on the top and bottom of the egg where you want to make a hole

-using a needle or push pin, make a small hole on the top of the egg

-turn the egg over and make a slightly larger hole on the bottom

-using a long needle or pin, break up the egg contents by inserting it into the bottom hole and twisting around inside

Now it's time to blow out the egg!

-Form a tight seal over the top hole with your lips, inhale a big breath through your nose and forcefully blow out through your mouth. The egg will come out the bottom hole, so make sure you have a bowl under the egg to collect the contents. Repeat

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these steps until all the contents come out. If you are having difficulties, try making the bottom hole slightly larger.

-clean your egg with warm soapy water, make sure to get some of that water inside the egg, shake it around and blow it out.

-make sure you have all the water out of the egg, blow out all the excess water and let it air dry before continuing.

Wrapping your egg:

Place a small piece of masking tape over the top and bottom hole.

Start with a small drop of glue at the top of the egg and attach the freshly cut end of the yarn to the egg, make sure the yarn has a good connection to the egg and let dry. I like to use my fingernail to press the thread into the glue.

Apply a thin layer of glue around the yarn and start to wrap the thread around itself while gently pressing the yarn on the egg. Try to push the yarn neatly against the previous row. When you are starting, you want to make sure you're making a perfect looking circle, give the thread a slight tug now and then to even it out.

Neatly apply the glue, try not to get glue on the yarn. Wipe off any excess glue from your finger before you press the thread onto the egg. Try to maintain even tension while wrapping the egg and that the yarn is lining up neatly against the previous row. I like to wrap a few rows then go back and make sure it's made good contact with the glue and is looking good.

Use small amounts of glue and try to work quickly so it doesn't dry out before you can use it. Re-apply glue before you entirely run out, so you don't have dry sections on the egg.

There's no right or wrong way to hold the egg, do what feels comfortable, and so you can see the yarn is lying neatly against the previous row.

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(Optional) It's handy to have a cradle you can put the egg in while you are finishing up. It becomes challenging to hold the egg while you are filling in the last few rounds.

When you are almost done, and it's too difficult to continue with your finger, you can use a toothpick or needle to press down the final few turns.

Cut the end with sharp scissors close to the egg, try not to cut it too short; it's easier to trim excess away than it is to fill in a small hole.

I like to finish up with a tiny dot of glue on the very end then inspect the egg and see if any of the last few rows need straightening. You can adjust the yarn slightly if the glue is still tacky.

Congratulations, you just wrapped your first egg!

What's next?

Make your own object or look for compelling items in your home or on a walk around your neighbourhood. Work with small, simple shapes until you develop your wrapping skills. Try working with various yarns with different thicknesses or textures, try dyeing the yarns first, change up colours or use variegated materials. Make a display for your egg; I am using some wooden beads I found in my studio.

* I am using DMC Pearl Cotton size 5 and UHU multi-purpose adhesive