

## Mary Zicafoose: How to Wrap a Stick

Decorative wrapping or binding is a centuries old form of artistic embellishment practiced in every culture across the globe. In their reverence for materials and their efforts not to be wasteful, artists have always saved the remnants and precious stuff left-over in the making of their craft. Even in 500 a.d., an artisan knew that one day that length of jute, bit of ribbon, or scrap of cloth would come in handy...for something!

### Materials needed:

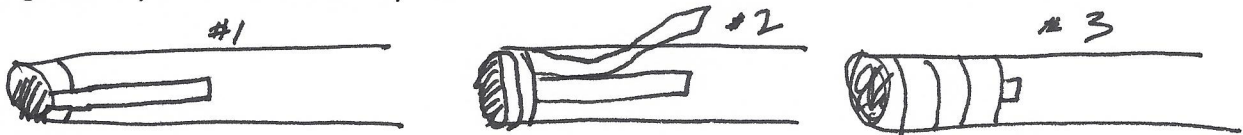
- Several interesting branches or sticks fallen from a tree or shrub, 1-2' in length
- stash of wrapping ribbons, yarns, tinsel, chords, ropes, all of different diameters and colors
- small sharp scissors
- tube of super glue

### Procedure:

Select the stick with the smoothest surface. Remove all leaves, nodules, shoots or twigs. This will be the armature that you will embellish and cover by tightly wrapping with a variety of ribbons and chords/strings from your stash.



To begin the wrap at the bottom of the stick, lay a 1" length of the ribbon on top of the stick, with the end facing away from you. You will not secure it by tying a knot, but rather by wrapping securely over the 1" tail of yarn.



Wrap neatly, tightly, and firmly, one row next to the other, do not overlap. After a few inches, leave a tail and begin a new color or type of chord, wrapping over both tails, concealing them both.

Continue to wrap. Change materials and colors as you like.



When you have reached the top of the stick or a point where you would like to stop, cut the ribbon and secure to the stick with a drop or two of super glue. Secure the finish in place with a piece of masking tape while the glue dries.



### Variations:

- Wrap several unusually shaped sticks and place them in a vase as a graphic flower arrangement
- Wrap several long dowels of different diameters and arrange them on a wall
- Wrap limbs on a dead tree in your yard with strips of leftover fabrics