



AT HOME

#5



image: Dorothy Wager, Australia, 1912 – 2001, Gemstone bead and silver necklace, c.1930s, Sydney, silver; rose quartz, amazonite, cornelian, agate, aventurine quartz, amber; 51.7 cm (length); Gift of Deborah Cocks and Jennifer Genion from the Graham & Elizabeth Cocks collection through the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation 2013. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jewellery-designer and artist, Dorothy Wager was first inspired to create jewellery while watching her aunt Rhoda Wager work in Fiji during her early childhood. When she turned 16, Dorothy moved to Sydney, Australia to live and work with her aunt. At the end of her apprenticeship, Wager moved to her own studio before she joined the Australian Women's Army Service in 1931. After World War II was over, Wager returned to her jewellery-making career in 1945.

ABOUT THE WORK

In 1930s–50s, female jewellers were not recognised as skilled designers and artists; however, today, Wager's work, along with the work of her aunt and other designers, is sought after by collectors. Wager used semi-precious gemstones, including rose quartz, amazonite, cornelian, agate, quartz and amber, as well as both silver and gold.

WAX AND WATERCOLOURS

MATERIALS YOU NEED

- 3 slices of white bread
- 3 tablespoons of white craft glue
- 3 drops of lemon juice
- Acrylic paint
- A drinking straw and skewer/wire
- Clear nail polish or varnish spray
- Wire or wool (needle optional)

BE INSPIRED!

Some of Dorothy Wager's jewellery is on display alongside Rhoda Wager's own works in Gallery 3C.

CREATE YOUR OWN WORK OF ART

Draw inspiration from Wager's love of nature to create your own beaded necklace.

- 1 Tear the bread into very small pieces, and place in a bowl. To speed up the process, ask your parent or guardian to use a grater or food processor.
- 2 Mix bread, craft glue, and lemon juice together with your hands or a spoon until it forms a dough.
- 3 Separate into smaller sections and knead in different coloured drops of paint. Shape the dough into beads by hand and let them dry for 1.5 hours.
- 4 To make holes in the beads, use skewers or wire to pierce the dough, or use a drinking straw to make larger holes. Let beads dry completely overnight.
- 5 Seal the beads with nail polish or varnish spray and string them onto wire or wool to create a necklace or bracelet.

FINISHED? We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or guardian to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia

 @artgalleryofsa #startatthegallery

Not on Instagram? No worries! Email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au