

# Craft and Tinker



**M**arjorie Merriweather Post, who once lived at Hillwood, surrounded herself with art she could use in her everyday life including dishes, jewelry, furniture, and more. Explore Hillwood to discover art by makers who used their skill, imagination, tools, and materials to craft functional art. Then take inspiration from the art you see to design and create your own artwork!

## How to Earn Your *Outdoor Art Explorer* Badge:

- Complete all five “Try This!” activities in this booklet.
- Use a Hillwood map to find the locations mentioned.
- Mark the checkbox next to activities you’ve completed.
- Show your troop leader your completed packet. Your troop leader can purchase Craft and Tinker badges from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital.

## Step 1 — Explore crafting and tinkering: Talk to a maker in your community

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit the **C.W. POST TENT** to meet Zsameria Rayford, founder of SwapDC and an expert on creative reuse.

Try these activities with Zsameria:

- Feel fabric swatches to find out about different textiles and their impacts on our water and planet
- Ask about why and how SwapDC was founded and the positive impact it has on the local community
- Learn about the positive impact creative reuse can have on our environment

SwapDC was founded by Zsameria Rayford. It is the only creative recycling event in Washington, DC that fosters a fun and diverse community around swapping for residents who want to reduce, reuse, and live a sustainable lifestyle.

SwapDC aims to bring awareness to the consequences of consumerism on our environment and our culture.

Since its debut in 2015, SwapDC has successfully recycled over 8 tons and donated over 12,000 lbs. to local shelters and those in need to help close the textile loop.



## Step 2 — Tinker with a craft: Tinker with materials

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Makers use a variety of materials including wood, fabric, clay, and metal to make their crafts. Here are examples of art at Hillwood made from different materials.

#### FABRIC



**Evening Dress**, Oldric Royce, Inc., New York, 1960, silk crepe, nylon organza chiffon, sequins (2016.3.1)  
*Gift of Steven Dye Post*

#### WOOD



**Chest of drawers**, Attributed to Jean-Henri Riesener, Paris, around 1775-80, wood marquetrie, gilt bronze, marble (31.10)

#### GEMS AND METAL



**Necklace**, Harry Winston, New York, 1961, turquoises, diamonds, platinum, gold (17.73)

### IN THE C.W. POST TENT

Sometimes makers use brand new materials for their crafts, but other times they may find ways to reuse old materials.

**Creative reuse** or **upcycling** is an inventive way to take old, unwanted, or unused materials and turn them into something new and useful.

Visit the **ART PROJECT** to turn paper scraps into beautiful paper bead jewelry you can wear.

## Step 3 — Learn about users: Reflect on the user experience

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Makers think about how the items they create will be used and who will use them. When you focus on what the person who will use an item wants, needs, likes, and dislikes, you are creating a **user-centered design**.

At the **ART PROJECT** today, you will design a small box. Think about the user of this box. It may be you, a friend, a family member, or whoever you choose. Fill out the **User Profile** below to think about how you can design a box for that user.

### USER PROFILE

My user is: \_\_\_\_\_

I am crafting (check one):

To decorate     To make life easier     For some other purpose:

\_\_\_\_\_

What I know about my user:

Activities they enjoy: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite colors: \_\_\_\_\_

Do they like things plain or fancy? \_\_\_\_\_

What does my user dislike? \_\_\_\_\_

Other notes or ideas:

## Step 4 — Craft for form, fit, and function: Decorate a box to store your treasures

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



#### IN THE MANSION

Art is all around us. Makers craft beautiful works of art that we can use in our daily lives. Explore Hillwood's mansion to find artwork that can be used for everyday activities like getting dressed, eating a meal, or sitting down to relax.

You'll find all sorts of useful items at Hillwood like the artworks pictured below. What other useful items can you find?



**Plate from the Rohan Service**  
Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory  
Sèvres, France, 1771  
Porcelain  
*Photographed by Brian Searby*  
(24.66)



**Armchair**  
Gobelins Tapestry Manufactory  
Louis Tessier (Designer)  
Paris, 1784-86 (tapestry),  
1800s (frame)  
Gilt wood, wool, silk  
(31.84)



**Evening Dress**  
Oldric Royce, Inc.  
New York, 1960  
Silk crepe, nylon organza chiffon, sequins  
*Gift of Steven Dye Post*  
(2016.3.1)

#### IN THE C.W. POST TENT

Now it is your turn to be the maker! Visit the **ART PROJECT** to decorate a box that you can use to store small items.

As you decorate your box, think about its form, fit, and function.

- **Form:** What does the box look like? What size, shape, and color is it? What colors, decorations, and designs will you add?
- **Fit:** How is the box put together? How does the lid fit on the box? Can you add any features, such as a handle for the lid, or legs to raise the box?
- **Function:** How does the box's size and shape (its form) impact its function? What will you use the box for?

## Step 5 — Tinker with your project: Add a new feature or function

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Two Russian princes gave this box as an anniversary gift to their parents over 100 years ago. Diamond letters (XXV) on the clasp stand for the number 25, the anniversary being celebrated. The initials of the princes and their parents are painted on the box's corners and the sides of the box are decorated with pictures of the family's palaces.



**Music Box**, Firm of Fabergé, Henrik Wigström (workmaster), St. Petersburg, 1907, gold, enamel, diamonds, rubies (11.80)

Each of these details make this a special, personalized gift, featuring things that are meaningful to the family.

As a maker, you can **tinker** with your craft to make changes. You might make small adjustments to make an item more useful or to make it unique or special for a particular person.

Tinker with the picture of the box below to add your own design. If you were making this box as a gift for a friend or family member what would you include?

