

NEEDLE FELTING

Watch Out — we're multifunctioning artists with a multifaceted substance: Fiber

Fiber can be sheared, plucked, combed, carded, felted, spun, crocheted, tatted, knitted, woven, sewn, embroidered and now ... needle felted. Ayala Talpai, in her whimsical way, introduced me to this technique via her book The Felting Needle from Factory to Fantasy. You simply take a very sharp, barbed felting needle and repeatedly stab helpless, soft and oh so fuzzy roving into your felted hat thus creating flowers, leaves, rainbows, scars (*if you're not extremely careful*) and whatever your imagination hatches.

It is very wise to use foam under your work area and inside the hat to avoid breaking these fragile needles on your table or in your hand. You can use combed fiber, ie, roving, clean fleece locks, yarn of many varieties (fuzzy stuff, eyelash type, too) to produce a cornucopia of visual and tactile delight.

Common Sense Caution: Beware of Hat Eating Babies, please sew decorations down firmly.



Stretch and fluff



Fold



Poke



Twist



Poke

And repeat

sounds like an exercise class I took *once*.