JEFFREY GIBSON: LIKE A HAMMER BEADING

ACTIVITY BOOKLET
“I’m interested in how beads were used in trade and how, in the late 1700s, they predominately came from Europe, but then became associated with Native American culture. I’m not hung up on what is and is not traditional. I believe that tradition is evolving, responding to contemporary circumstances”

– Jeffrey Gibson in a conversation with Lilly Wei, 2016

In 2011, Gibson reached out to Native craftspeople to learn and practice beadwork. This skill, meticulous, exact, and repetitive, is something that Gibson has been drawn to because it allows the mind to wander. Now, Gibson teaches his studio assistants techniques in beadwork to help craft his works. These pieces are dynamic and explore a range of influences in music, literature, politics, and popular culture.

Explore the exhibition. What kind of patterns do you see in Gibson’s work? Draw them below.

HERE ARE THE MATERIALS YOU NEED TO BEAD:

☐ GLASS OR PLASTIC BEADS
☐ STRING OR THREAD
☐ NEEDLE (IN THE GALLERIES, WE USE PLASTIC NEEDLES ONLY)
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO COMPLETE A BASIC PEYOTE STITCH. THIS PATTERN REQUIRES THE FIRST ROW TO BE IN A MULTIPLE OF 2 (i.e. 2,4,6,8,10,12,14...)

1. Grab a needle and run 3-4 feet of string or thread through the eye of the needle.

2. Tie a starting knot around the first bead by going through the center of the bead, looping the thread around, and going through the center again.

3. String 9 more beads, so that your first row equals 10 total.

4. Add the first bead of the second row.

5. Use your needle to go right-left through bead 9 on the first row.
6. Add bead.

7. Use your needle to go right-left through bead 7 on the first row.

8. Add bead and continue pattern.

9. Continue a new row by adding a bead and circling back to the last bead on the previous row.

10. Continue pattern. On the final row, tie a knot on the final bead to complete.
Design your own Peyote stitch pattern with the graph below.
DROP-TWO PEYOTE STITCH

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO COMPLETE A DROP TWO PEYOTE STITCH PATTERN. THIS PATTERN REQUIRES THE FIRST ROW TO BE IN A MULTIPLE OF 4 (i.e. 4, 8, 12, 16...)

1. Grab a needle and run 3-4 feet of string or thread through the eye of the needle.

2. Tie a starting knot around the first bead by going through the center of the bead, looping the thread around, and going through the center again.

3. Add 7 more beads, so that your first row equals 8 total.

4. Add 2 more beads to start your second row.

5. With your needle, go right-left through beads 5 and 6 on the first row.
6. Add two more beads.

7. With your needle, go right-left through beads 1 and 2 on the first row.

8. Add two more beads to start the next row.

9. Use your needle to go through beads 3 and 4 of the second row.

10. Continue pattern. On the final row, tie a knot on the final bead to complete.
Design your own drop-two Peyote stitch pattern with the graph below.
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO COMPLETE A SQUARE STITCH PATTERN. THIS PATTERN CAN BEGIN WITH ANY NUMBER OF BEADS IN THE FIRST ROW, BUT WE RECOMMEND 10-14.

1. Grab a needle and run 3-4 feet of string or thread through the eye of the needle.

2. Tie a starting knot around the first bead by going through the center of the bead, looping the thread around, and going through the center again.

3. Add 9 more beads, so the first row equals 10.

4. Add bead 1 on the second row

5. Loop the needle through bead 10 in the first row left-right, and then back through bead 1 in the second row, going right-left.
6. Add bead 2 of the second row.

7. Loop the needle through bead 9 in the first row left-right, and then back through bead 2 in the second row, going right-left.

8. Continue pattern of adding a new bead and looping the beads together.

9. Add bead 1 of row 3.

10. Loop needle through bead 10 on row 2 right-left, and back through bead 1 on row 3 left-right.

11. Continue pattern. On the final row, tie a knot on the final bead to complete.
Design your own square stitch pattern with the graph below.