



Grade

6

Strand

Visual Art

Curriculum

[www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca)

## Grade 6: Create your own Merit Badge with Professional Visual Artist Laura Hale

**Aim:** This 1 ¾ hour session will give students the opportunity to participate in a 45-minute live broadcast with professional artist Laura Hale and then take part in a one-hour teacher-guided workshop activity.

Students will learn about textile art and how Laura Hale is connecting students to Saskatchewan's motto, ownership of the Legislative building and expression of personal identity through visual symbolism.

To have students submit their merit badge and contribute to a province-wide community art project.

**Creative/Productive:** Create a badge representing personal identity. Convey an idea through visual symbolism. Introduction to textile art and develop basic hand sewing skills.

**Critical/Responsive:** Informed interpretation and response to artwork that expresses personal identity.

**Cultural/Historical:** Textile art, Saskatchewan's motto, history of badges and awards

### About the Artist

Laura Hale is an interdisciplinary visual artist working within themes rooted in the human experience and our relationship to the environment. She incorporates a wide variety of materials and techniques in the development and creation of her artwork and projects.

Laura balances her personal artistic practice with an active community-engaged arts practice. She has held artist-in-residence positions with Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon, the City of Lloydminster's Barr Colony Heritage Cultural Centre, the Jeux du Canada Games in Regina and the Saskatchewan Legislative Building 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

She recently spent a year in Ontario working in community arts with Jumbles Theatre and Aamnmitaagzi, multi-disciplinary community arts organizations that focusing on building stories and bringing the community together through art.

Laura holds a degree in Kinesiology from the University of Regina, returned to the U of R to study visual art, and spent five years as Head of Props with Regina's Globe Theatre.

## Program Structure (1 hour 30 min.)

**PART 1: 45 minute** LIVE broadcast introductory session with a professional artist:

- Video - Saskatchewan Legislative Building 100th Anniversary Artist-in-Residence Program
- Artist Bio
- Demonstration - Communicating through images/pictograms. Saskatchewan's motto & Legislative Building belonging to all people of SK. Pair activity "lean on me". Images/pictograms of "strengths" (e.g., physical, mental, spirit, emotional, group)
- Activity Group - "desk hop"
- Presentation - What is a merit badge? Girl Guide/boy scout badges, Boy Scout song, Sask gopher badge
- Demonstration - Introduce materials students will be working with. Put felt into hoop, thread a needle, tie knot in end, tracing badge shape onto felt, basic embroidery stitches, running out of thread, changing colors of thread, how to take felt out of hoop, and cutting around badge shape. Show detailed examples of badges from past workshop.
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**PART 2: 45 min.** Teacher-guided hands-on workshop activities with online support from artist through Adobe Connect. Teachers and students can ask questions and consult artist via Adobe Connect during this segment at <http://connect.edonline.sk.ca/liveartsed/>

Resources are available for use in the classroom at the LIVE Arts Education website [www.liveartsaskatchewan.com](http://www.liveartsaskatchewan.com)

Students may need additional classroom time beyond the 45 minutes to complete the approximately 1-hour hands-on project.

## Curriculum Outcomes

### Creative/Productive

CP6.11 Investigate and use various visual art forms, images, and art-making processes to express ideas about identity.

### Critical/Responsive

CR6.2 Investigate and identify ways that the arts can express ideas about identity.

### Cultural/Historical

CH6.1 Investigate how personal, cultural, or regional identity may be reflected in arts expressions.

Refer to renewed Arts Education curriculum documents for further information on outcomes and assessment.

## Materials and Resources

**NOTE: Students need to prepare the merit badge template for tracing by cutting them out prior to the session.** Each student will require a copy of a Merit Badge Template (cut out prior to session) and the 'Merit Badge Identification' sheet available at [www.liveartsaskatchewan.com](http://www.liveartsaskatchewan.com) under Resources/Visual Arts.

Each student will need the following materials: a pencil and 3 sheets of unlined paper, one piece of 8 ½" x 11 ½" basic craft felt (any color), 8" embroidery hoop, embroidery needle (large eye), 5' length of embroidery thread (any color) and good scissors.

Group materials: embroidery thread (variety of colors), felt scraps (variety of colors and sizes), 10 black Sharpie fine point markers.

### Teacher Guide for Hands-on Workshop Segment of the Broadcast

1. Have each student write down the phrase: "I am good at \_\_\_\_\_" on 3 different sheets of paper. Enter a different word on each sheet indicating 3 things they are good at or would like to be good at.
2. On each sheet under each statement, have students draw pictogram style images representing their word. There can be more than one image per page. This is an exercise to brainstorm ideas. Then, have each student pick his/her favourite word and corresponding pictogram to use for the merit badge.
3. Students should now have their personal materials (i.e., pre-cut badge shape template, 8 ½" x 11 ½" felt, hoop, needle and thread). Have students put their felt rectangle into the hoop, thread their needle and tie a knot in end of the thread as seen in Laura's broadcast demo.
4. Students will trace their badge shape onto their piece of felt in the hoop using a sharpie marker.
5. Have students pick 3 colors of felt from the group pile to use in creating their additional pictogram designs (they can choose more colors later if needed).
6. Students draw the outline of their previously designed pictograms onto their extra felt and cut them out. Sew the cut out pieces onto the badge in the hoop.
7. When students are done sewing, they will pop the felt out of the hoop and cut around the outline of the badge.
8. Students then fill out a personal a 'Merit Badge Identification' sheet.
9. The teacher can document each badge by photographing it on its 'Merit Badge Identification' sheet making sure the text is legible. If students are willing to have their work considered for possible inclusion in Laura's Legislative Building 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Artist-in Residence Program project, scan and email the sheets along with the teacher's name and contact information to Laura at [liveartsaskatchewan@gmail.com](mailto:liveartsaskatchewan@gmail.com)