

## Hair for Tufting

Tufting was originally created using Moose hair; however, it can also be done using any type of hollow hair. Animals that also have hollow hair include Polar Bears, Wolves, Elk, Reindeer, Caribou and Llamas.

Hollow hair has air pockets inside that help keep the animal warm in their cold climates.

Today, many people use Caribou or Reindeer hair for tufting, although the hairs are much finer and softer than moose. Caribou are an endangered species, so many artists have turned to Reindeer. Reindeer is a smaller, domesticated Caribou – raised for food in Scandinavian countries.



**North Island Métis (NIMA) publishes a monthly newsletter.**

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**NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS**

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**Métis  
Tufting**



## Wool Punch Art



<https://craftworld.com/cms/what-is-punch-needle-art/>

## Tufting



Artist Jessie Wastasticoot

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## History of Tufting

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Moose hair had been used in decorative art since the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Quebec. It was used in satin stitches, French knots and for couching over a bundle of threads to create floral designs.

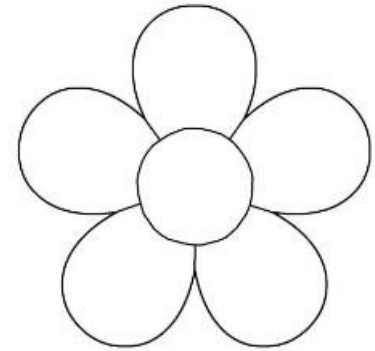
In the early 1900's, when decorative materials became short in supply, a Métis woman by the name of Madeline Laferté (nee Bouvier) created what we now know as tufting. She observed the Grey Nuns creating wool punch art and imitated the techniques using Moose hair.

Madeline then passed her tufting technique on to her daughter-in-law, Celine Laferté (nee Laviolette), and from there it spread.

Tufted designs were typically simple floral designs that would have been drawn out with a flower and water paste onto a piece of hide or fabric.

Longer hairs would have been saved for the stems of flowers.

Hair would have been dyed using bark, berries, leaves, commercial dye, or gin pills.



## Getting Started

- Thick felt or leather
- Paper
- Pen
- Hollow hair animal hair of choice
- Sinew
- Embroidery needle
- Small embroidery scissors

You can use this Prairie Rose (five-petal flower) as a template to trace onto another piece of paper to get started.

Check out our YouTube page for a step-by-step tutorial @northislandmetis.