

Rachael is interested in developing new materials from natural sources. Using food waste and other organic substances, Rachael transforms items we would usually throw away into jewellery, objects and sculpture. Her original approach uses design ideas that highlight issues around sustainability, consumption and the lifecycle of natural materials.

Rachael Colley Make a neckpiece with dried avocado

craftspace.co.uk/wac-rachaelcolley

Using Rachael's technique, create a beautiful neckpiece with an avocado and natural yarn. You can experiment with the technique using different fruits, vegetables and other natural materials that you have available such as an orange, banana, squash, conkers or acorns.

Colour your neckpiece cord by following Materiom's free guide to creating a natural fabric dye from avocado pits materiom.org/recipe/392 then use the remaining dye to create a bioplastic materiom.org/recipe/202

Once your neckpiece has reached the end of its life, you can compost it if you have used natural yarn, or take it on a walk with you, leaving it somewhere to biodegrade naturally, completing its lifecycle.



① Cut into your avocado from top to bottom along the centre and separate into two halves. Remove the pit then scoop out and eat the flesh. Wash the skins carefully to remove all of the remaining flesh.



② Carefully cut up the avocado skins with scissors to create strips. Knot these strips into interesting shapes and leave them somewhere warm to dry.



③ Create a neckpiece cord using yarn made from natural fibres such as cotton or linen. Use or re-use yarn you have already. There are a great range of options you can buy or have a go at making yourself, including nettle and seaweed yarn. You can use the yarn as it is, create a plaited cord or crochet a chain.



④ Thread your dried, knotted avocado skins onto your cord. Knot the cord and cut off any excess. Move the knot into a position where it can't be easily seen. You have your completed neckpiece!