

Thoughts About Yarn Bombing

What is yarn bombing?

The action or activity of covering objects or structures in public places with decorative knitted or crocheted material, as a form of street art.

en.oxforddictionaries.com

June 11, 2018, is Yarn Bombing Day—celebrate! Fiber freaks around the world attempt to cover the world in warm fuzzy comfort. It was created in 2011 by Alberta, Canada, knitter Joann Matvichuk as a way to unite the diverse groups of “guerilla knitters” in cities across the world.
daysoftheyear.com

“I guess the best way to define it is when you take a piece of knit or crochet and you wrap it around something outside. So you’re bringing, like, a touch of warmth into an urban environment,” Kaye said.

London Kaye, londonkaye.com

Alone, urban environments tend to feel cold, unfriendly, hard, and nonchalant. There is no life or color. On the other side, the very nature of knit objects is to create warmth, love, and comfort. When these two worlds are combined, something magical happens. Our mundane, every day, routine is suddenly transformed into something more. The average passerby's goal stops being simply to get from point A to point B, like some sort of machine and they feel--at least for a moment--like a human being again. The important thing is that for a moment, however short it may be, the passer-by is thinking of something other than what is next on their busy schedule. They have taken a breath just to simply be alive.

Samantha Harris, 9/28/17, feltmagnet.com, “What is Yarn Bombing?”

From its place in the world of political activism to its questionable legality, this branch of knitting and crochet has caused quite an uproar. However, whether you love it or hate it, yarn bombing as a form of graffiti seems like it is here to stay and fill the streets with color! Is Yarn Bombing illegal? Yes and no. Like most forms of street art, yarn bombing *is* illegal if you do not have permission from the people who own the property first. This gets even trickier if it is on public property like sidewalks.

Toby Kuhnke, allfreeknitting.com, 4/9/18, “Yarn Bombing 101”

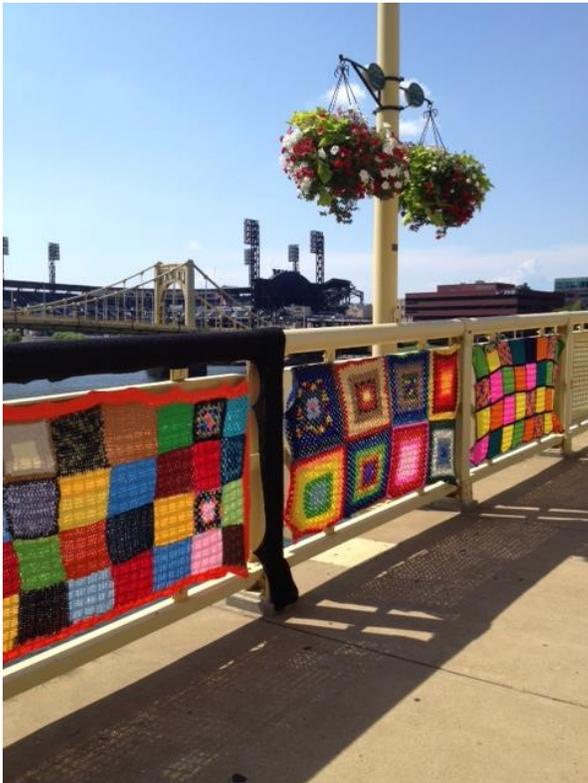
In 2013, more than 1,800 knitters covered Pittsburgh’s Andy Warhol Bridge in 3,000 feet of colorful yarn. Volunteers worked all weekend to attach 580 blanket-size, hand-knitted panels to the pedestrian walkways on the downtown bridge, and riggers attached larger panels to the towers. The project was organized by the *Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh* and other local institutions. Knitters from more than 80 Pittsburgh neighborhoods and 120 area townships signed up to help with what the guild calls the nation’s largest “yarn bomb.”

nydailynews.com, 8/13/13, New York Daily News, “Yarn Bomb! Knitters Cover Pittsburgh Bridge in Colorful Yarn”

Check out the photographs! <http://www.thisiscolossal.com/tags/yarn-bombing/>
thisiscolossal.com, 9/1/16, Colossal, “Yarn Bombing”

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS / yarn and fiber art installation for ARTpath

Andy Warhol Bridge, Pennsylvania, 2013



Magda Sayeg, Mexico, 2012

Olek, India, 2015



London Kaye

