

Hello ALL!

I have been involved with PCAP since 2015. I am in love with your love; your love for us, your love for servitude and sacrifice for the program and for successful reentry for many of us who need such support. However, I digress.

I have always loved The Meeshigan football team. When I was growing up, they were the standard for collegiate athletes, at least in my mind that was how I felt. The Spartans were not so much of that standard of excellence, and that is not to step on their academic standard (LOL); I mostly refer to the football programs. Then Michigan had the "Fab 5" and I loved them. I began to love the Spartans basketball teams though as time went on and as a kid, I ALWAYS loved the figure of "Sparty." And therefore, I have an appreciation for both schools. Yes, it is possible.

So, when I crochet, I have learned to look at a thing and am able to figure out how to crochet it. That is usually the case anyhow. So, every time I have seen a crocheted item on the art movies you guys have shown us, no offense, but I have been very unimpressed. As an avid crochet-er, I wanted to display the true ability that crochet has to offer to the world of "art." I began to get an image of a tortured Spartan attempting to break free from the U of M world. (Or vice versa, :-p) I always loved the demeanor of the idea of a regal Spartan soldier and I love the tenacity of the voracious wolverine. These are all qualities I believe are deep within myself.

I have begun to create art within my crocheting world as a natural growth for me within the process of learning to crochet. I began the art of crocheting though because I wanted to create gifts for my nieces, nephews and cousins and family and friends as a whole. I was always a big giver as my mother and Aunt Sandy can attest to and this was a way of continuing to do so.

I shared most of the details of my piece, but I will say that I created one side of the "M" and then the other and I made the inner portion all in one, long, continuous piece and then slip stitched the pieces together and stuffed as I went along. I did put the Blue border on the "M's" first. Before I closed off the whole "M" however, I began to make my "Sparty" head. I accidentally figured out how to make the scowl for "Sparty" and the rest is not perfect or how I originally envisioned it, but it came out pretty close to the model I was using. I had to do a lot of sewing to secure the whole helmet properly. Part of this type of crochet art takes quite a bit of sewing.

So, originally, I envisioned this piece being about 3 feet high by 3 feet wide. And Sparty was supposed to have an open screaming mouth which I can do, but at the end of the day, I didn't have enough time or yarn to complete this dream. Also, I believe that piece would have been too large to submit, if I have read the parameters correctly. I really wanted to put the pillow/piece on a stage to make it more secure, but again, lack of time and resources nixed that idea.

I hope someone can appreciate the time and effort it took for me to accomplish this piece. I thank you sincerely for all of the work you all do.

Sincerely, Godspeed,

Steven Lynn Nicholson/ 492918