



## ***The Hair Craft Project* by Sonya Clark**

Stylists: Kamala Bhagat, Dionne James Eggleston, Marsha Johnson, Chaunda King, Anita Hill Moses, Nasirah Muhammad, Jameika and Jasmine Pollard, Ingrid Riley, Ife Robinson, Natasha Superville, and Jamilah Williams  
ArtPrize 2014: Two-Dimensional Juried Winner and Juried Grand Prize Co-Winner

*The Hair Craft Project* is a series of photographs and textile works that document the primordial fiber art of hairdressing. For this project, artist Sonya Clark asked twelve hair stylists to style her hair, and use the same techniques to transform silk thread on a canvas. Clark brings the art of hair braiding into the gallery to celebrate and elevate her cultural heritage.

Braids have been used for construction and decoration by many cultures for thousands of years. Historically, different hairstyles have communicated something about the identity, like the ethnic group, age, or social class of the wearer.

## **Creative Challenge: Braided Bracelet**

Take a moment to think about something you feel is important in your own culture. It could be traditions, rituals, or creative accomplishments. Write this down on a ribbon that you will braid into your bracelet. Wearing this hidden message will be a way to celebrate your culture, or pass it on as a gift.

- Choose fibers that interest you for your braid; you can lump multiple fibers into strands. If you have never done it before start with three strands. If you know how to braid with three strands, try it with five.
- Tie all of the fibers together at one end. Alternating sides, twist the outside strand into the inside; continue braiding to the end of the strands and tie a knot.
- Take your bracelet home, share your cultural heritage story with a friend, and notice the beautiful artistic expressions in the hairstyles around you.

**Bring this card home with you. COLLECT ALL 12 cards by completing ArtPrize 10 Creative Challenges!**

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# Card #10

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Sonya Clark