Yarn Bombing Los Angeles
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• Yarn Bombing Los Angeles (YBLA) is a group of guerrilla knitters who stage public installations and performances
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- Yarn bombing is a form of street art that employs colorful displays of knits, crochet and other fiber material instead of paint in public space.
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• Some engage in yarn bombing as an urban intervention to personalize otherwise cold and impersonal spaces and to make socio-political statements
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- In its seemingly odd juxtaposition of knitting and graffiti, associated with opposing concepts such as female, granny, indoors, domestic, wholesome and soft vs. male, enfant terrible, outdoors, public, underground and edgy, the practice of yarn bombing redefines both genres.
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- Unlike most public art, yarn bombing is ephemeral due to its use of materials. It is perhaps the most environmentally friendly graffiti. It can easily be removed with a pair of scissors and no damage left behind.
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- YBLA stems from *Fig Knit On* organized by the Arroyo Art Collective on Figueroa Blvd in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles, CA in 2010
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- *Fig Knit-On* participant Arzu Arda Kosar later invited the *Fig Knit-On* organizer Heather Hoggan to put together another yarn bombing event by her studio in Santa Monica, CA in June 2011
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• Developed over a six month period, the Yarn Bombing 18th Street event attracted more than 60 local and international participants from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia
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Dear Arzu + the 18th Street Arts Center,

It's with a happy smile that I write, that hopefully by now you'll have received my yarn-bombing parcel safely and soundly 😊.

In this package, there shall be the contents of:

- A medium-sized zip-locked bag of knitted licorice all sorts
- AND
- A large-sized zip-locked bag of knitted candies + boiled sweets

I haven't included my return address or SASE for this, as everything that is here, ..., I'd like the people that appreciate it, to take a piece and keep for themselves — finding or each piece a safe and new home.

All that I ask in exchange for this is, if they do indeed like my work, to please do join my Facebook art page (which my friends + loved ones continously keep updated for me) —

http://www.facebook.com/chryc.thomas

With my sincerest thanks, and warmest wishes from here in Sydney (Australia) —

CO
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• The monthly stitch n bitch meetings for local participants created such a sense of community that they started producing independent collaborations
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- The *Empathy Circle* went on display in Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles, CA in response to the Japanese disaster in April 2011
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• *Yarn Bombing 18th Street* took place at the 18th Street Arts Center, Santa Monica, CA on June 18th, 2011
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• Yarn Bombing 18th Street juxtaposed novice crafters with conceptual artists, high brow and low art, bringing together people from all walks of life
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• Due to the vast numbers and diversity of participants, *Yarn Bombing 18th Street became a highly inclusive survey of the of the knit graffiti movement*
If you have ever thought to yourself, “Hey, that tree could use a sweater,” or “I wish I could add some color to this drab environment,” or “Wouldn’t it be great to cover the rifle in that old statue with something soft & fuzzy,” then we have an exhibit for you! . . . Yarn Bombing (aka yarn storming, graffiti knitting, guerrilla knitting, or textile graffiti) combines knitting, crocheting, and needle work with graffiti to create colorful, unexpected, funny and/or political juxtapositions.

Yarn Bombing 18th Street presents the work of over sixty artists from four continents that push the knit/crochet envelope in a public art format. Organized by Arzu Arda Kosar, a resident artist at the 18th Street Arts Center, and Heather Hoggan, co-president of the Arroyo Arts Collective, Yarn Bombing 18th Street encompasses conceptual artists and novice crafters, high-brow art and low art, craft techniques associated with the domestic sphere, and the urban landscape.

http://yarnbombing18th.weebly.com/
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- Next, *Yarn Bombing* 18th St participants went on to yarn bomb their own cars outside MOCA’s *Art in the Streets* show in August 2011 with the purpose to expand the definition of street art to include knit graffiti.
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- Following the MOCA event the group adopted the collective identity **Yarn Bombing Los Angeles** to focus on knit graffiti as self initiated and temporal public art, through guerrilla installations, interactive installations, workshops, local and international collaborations with others.
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- Hands on interactivity is an integral component of most YBLA projects
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• YBLA also conducts knit graffiti workshops, such as the one they did for Los Angeles Unified School District students, their teachers and parents
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- YBLA presented *Forest, For the Trees*: a knit forest environment at the window of Craft and Folk Art Museum, January-May, 2012
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- Due to public interest in the YBLA display, the Craft and Folk Art Museum turned their window into a curated art space, independent of the shows inside.
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- YBLA extended the window display at CAFAM with rotating street installations on Wilshire Blvd, a busy fare way in downtown Los Angeles, CA
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• In spring 2012 YBLA launched *Urban Letters*, a crowd sourced website project.
• People submit a phrase and a public location where they’d like to see it.
• YBLA members choose among the suggestions and put up temporary installations using large knit letters.
http://urbanletters.yarnbombinglosangeles.com/
http://urbanletters.yarnbombinglosangeles.com/
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- YBLA also conducts *Urban Letters* workshops
- Knit letters are made available
- Audience are able to sign up for 15 minute slots to use the letters to put together and display their expression.
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- Another ongoing YBLA project is the *Wishing Tree*
- *Wishing Tree* is based on traditional models that often originate anonymously, grow organically with public participation, even in absence of an artist / facilitator, similar to the Prayer Wall in Jerusalem
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• The next YBLA endeavor involves covering the façade of the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles, CA in oversized granny squares, to play with scale, perception and architectural identity within an urban setting.
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• Public is invited to collaborate with YBLA for Granny Squares project by sending in crocheted squares to be assembled by YBLA members and/or to make a donation to help us fund material and installation costs.
CALL FOR ENTRY:

• Please send 5 inch by 5 inch granny squares in
• Bright Orange
• White
• Bright Green
• Turquoise
• by March 1, 2013

• to: Yarn Bombing Los Angeles
• 18th Street Arts Center
• 1653 18th Street #5
• Santa Monica, CA 90404

• please include your name, location, and favorite type of stitch, and we will credit you in all press mentions of the work.
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• Any questions or comments?

• Please connect with us @
  – yarnbombinglosangeles.com
  – yarnbombing18@gmail.com