

"THE GATHERING"

A COLORADO RUG CHALLENGE

By Lisa Hut
Granby, CO



During the pandemic, a group of my hooking friends were meeting on Zoom. For many of us, that was our only social "outing" during a complicated time. Sharon Oppgaard started it all with the idea of doing a group challenge and asked me (Lisa Hut) if I would draw a pattern. Mary Morgan came up with the theme "The Gathering" with the notion that your gathering could be anything. I immediately knew that I wanted to draw a barn – specifically the Double A Barn near my home in Grand Lake, Colorado. We didn't have many rules. I drew a pattern and everyone could use it, change it or even do their own thing. I love every single rug my friends created ... rug hookers are very talented artists!

Double A Barn in Summer

Designed and hooked by
Lisa Hut

Granby, Colorado

17" x 24", 6-cut wool and
various wool yarn and roving.

I have always loved the look of combining yarn and wool strips but just recently started hooking in this style. The AA Barn is in Grand Lake, CO owned by Arapahoe National Recreation Area – just adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park. It's a beautiful spot that has hiking,



wildflowers, fly fishing along the Colorado River, and moose frequent the area. It is also a wedding venue for those that love the outdoors.

As if 2020 wasn't a bad enough year, THE EAST TROUBLESOME wildfire raced through Grand County, Colorado, in late October and

burned over 190,000 acres. Five days after evacuating, I was very grateful to find that my home was saved by firefighters and that the AA Barn was also still standing. I've always wanted to hook a rug of this barn and my pattern is available on www.lisahut.com.

Sunset at the AA Barn

Hooked and modified by Robyn Stephenson, Parker, Colorado
29" x 28", predominately 3, 4 and 5-cut. Design by Lisa Hut

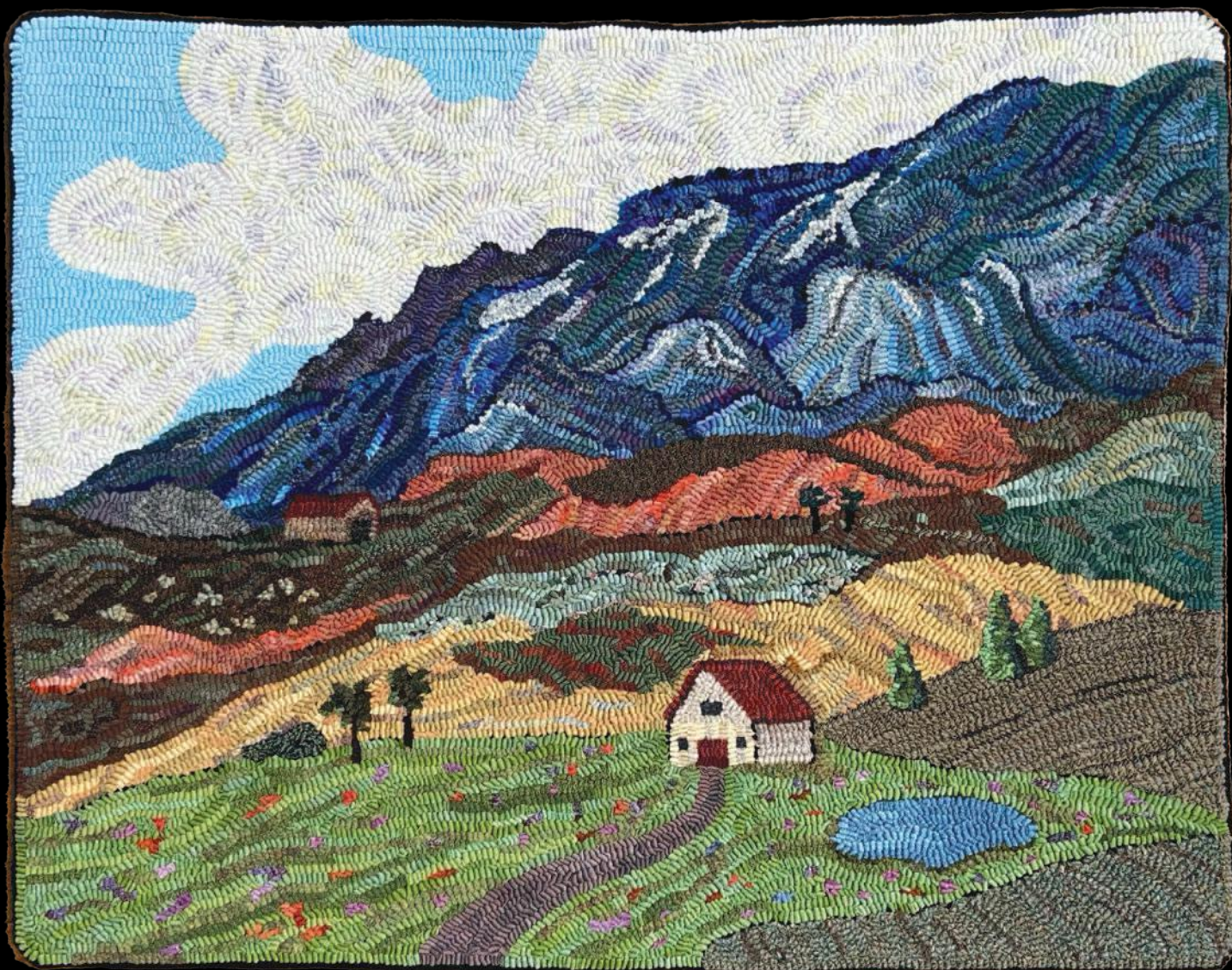
Robyn has been hooking since 1996 and is passionate about the art of hooked rugs. She has been in **Celebration** magazine twice, and her attention to detail is exceptional. Robyn's gathering is of the trees. "I changed the design to add aspen trees and shifted a few other details on the foothills," says Robyn. Diane Stoffel hand dyed the wool.



amazing. Look closely at the directional loops of her rug as it adds so much detail and movement. Robyn truly "paints with wool". Robyn recently taught a beginner hooking class with Lillian G...

Lake, Colorado, and is currently working on finishing some chair pads. Her website of paintings and rugs is www.artworkbyrobynlynn.com.



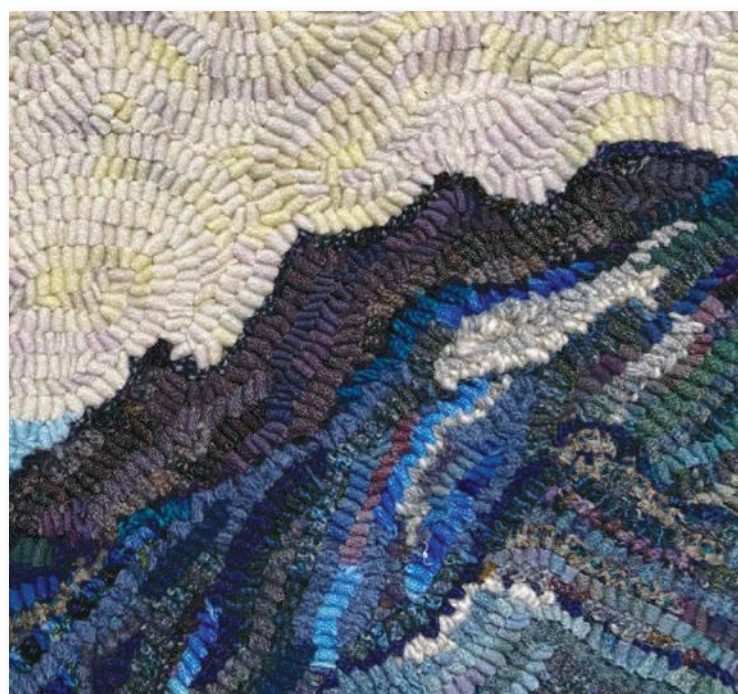


Vincent in the Rockies

Designed and hooked by Sharon Oppgard, Greenwood Village, CO
30" x 24", predominately 7 & 8-cut wool, chiffon and sari silk. Design by Van Gogh, Lisa Hut and Sharon Oppgard.

This rug is a mashup of two things; the barn challenge and a rug based on a Van Gogh painting that I started in a class with Janet Conner. The design is an adaptation of Van Gogh's "View of the Alpilles", combined with elements of a design from Lisa Hut, and a couple additions of my own.

The use of many wools in short "strokes" of color for the mountains were illustrative of the Van Gogh style of painting. The clouds reflect more of my comfort zone in hooking with a single spot-dyed wool.



The Gathering

Designed and hooked by
Mary Morgan, Parker,
12" x 23" hooked with
wool.

I have hooked for going on 20 years. This is the smallest piece I've ever hooked. It's a challenge as I have no pattern. There are eight women who regularly attend our gatherings. These women inspire me to create. I gather so I have eight different strengths that each of their strengths give me. The first time I went to the barn in Grand Lake, Colorado, I went with two women I went with a third. This is where I live near the barn. Five colors are in the background. The barn is the location of the mountains and the bluebird sky. I did this to remember my hooker went to see the barn.





These wonderful designs for the animals were taken from school drawings done by my six-year-old grand-nephew.



Keith's Farm

Designed and hooked
by Carolyn Gress
Parker, CO. 30" x 26"

When the theme
"Gathering at the
Barn" was chosen for
our rug challenge,
I immediately knew
that I wanted the
"gathering" to be a
variety of farm
animals. I began
sketching my rug-
be, but was never
satisfied with
anything I drew.
About that same
time, out of the blue,
my sister sent me
drawings of farm
animals that my then
six year old grand-
nephew had drawn
at school. These
whimsical little
animals were all the
inspiration I needed



The Barn and The Birds

Designed and hooked by
Donna Gordon, Castle Pines, CO
27" x 32" — 6 -8-cuts

The Star Barn in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where I used to live, has always fascinated me. The combination of its church-like Gothic windows, stars, and connection to working the earth holds many layers of meaning for me. I have always wanted to capture its spirit and this barn rug challenge provided the perfect opportunity.

The depiction of a 'gathering' component in the piece took the form of a murmuration of Starlings, those magical wheeling flocks that look like poetry in motion. From my perspective, they will always symbolize the sense of community and group effort that is so much a part of the Amish rural culture of the area.

This was one of my first serious attempts at consistently using smaller cuts and interspersing them with yarn and wool roving. Most of my twenty plus years of enjoying traditional rug hooking have been spent working with larger cuts, often hand torn. This project really gave me an appreciation of the dedication to detail and shading fine hookers put into their work. Also, sewing on each bird (plastic, bought online, and then spray painted black) became both a meditation and practice in patience with hand sewing.



Red Barn Farm

Designed and hooked by Sue
Rust

26" x 22" 5 - 8 -cuts

I was inspired to draw and hook this barn after studying vintage paint by numbers. I hooked my pattern in 5 to 8-cut. I used over dyed wool, as-is, and yarn. I crocheted the binding with wool yarn. Gathering at the barn represents family to me. My relatives have barns on farms I visited as a child, and there were many relatives, home cooked meals, and animals. "A happy celebration of hard working families." You can find many handmade wool items on Sue's Etsy site at

[Suziepatuziehandmade on Etsy.](https://www.etsy.com/shop/Suziepatuziehandmade)



Dad's New England Barns

Designed and hooked by Patricia Morrison, Englewood, CO
17" x 22" 4 - 6-cuts with yarns

When I saw my dad's painting of a "gathering" of New England barns on the wall at my brother's home, I knew I had to hook it for our barn gathering challenge. This painting spoke to my heart. I figure my dad painted the barns when he was in his 20's, which

would have been in and raised in Boston, I don't know when he started painting, but I know he gave it up when he had a family. After he retired, he took up painting again. I took up rug hooking when I retired. I wish I knew the location of the barns or the history of his painting. Hooking his painting is a tribute to my dad and a tribute to my rug hooking family. The unique qualities of each barn remind me of the special qualities of each member of my rug hooking group. We are all colorful, strong as a group, yet travel our own road.

I loved the colors my dad used for the barns, their unique shapes, the feel of the road, the mountain so proud and tall, the commanding cloud in the sky. It made me want to go there, if only I knew where "there" was. We had hooked rugs in our home growing up, and vacationing in New England I always saw hooked rugs, but didn't really know what I was looking at.

This rug is a combination of techniques on linen. The sky and trees are punched, a technique I learned this year from Rebecca Martin, the yarn hand dyed by her. The rest of the rug was hooked with wool in 4-6's, with a few 8's, basically using

whatever size wool I had available. I often had to hand cut strips making the wool fit in the space available. I used wool from my stash with friends donating specific colors when I needed a special touch.





Lisa Hut's Photo reference of the Double A Barn.

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