

Art from Unusual Things: A Follow Up

After I sent out the piece about **Art From Unusual Things**, I heard from a couple of people with items I had missed.

Art from **Dryer Lint** was one. Who knew? And **Military Dog Tags** was another.

Heidi Hooper was a metalsmith, spending 8 to 10 hours a day hammering metal. When a cancerous tumor took away most of the strength in her arm, she needed to find an alternative outlet for her creative spirit.

She has since become the world's premier dryer lint artist. *Consumer Reports* calls her "The Andy Warhol of Dryer Lint." Ripley's Believe it or Not features her work in their museums and in their books. She was a guest on "To Tell The Truth" where the panelists had to guess which one was the real dryer lint artist.

She collects lint from others, looking for a variety of colors (without dog hair), because, as she says, she can only do so much laundry. She keeps it sorted by color in approximately 800 plastic boxes. Here are a couple examples of her work.



Hooper is not alone. Laura Bell is a self-taught Michigan artist, who also has a piece in the Ripley's Believe It Or Not collection. Bell has reproduced Da Vinci's Last Supper in dryer lint. She said it took 800 hours of laundry to collect the lint and 200 hours to create the 14 foot long 4 foot tall mural. She bought towels of the colors she needed in order to create the lint. (Hint: if you decide this is something you should try using your own lint, you will need to meticulously separate your laundry; otherwise you will just get gray lint).



How about **military dog tags**?

The warrior dress pictured below, created by Korean artist, Do Ho Suh, is made entirely of military dog tags. The sculpture is an edition of three plus an artist's proof. The artist's proof sold in 2012 for \$782,500. The photo below is from the Whitney Museum in NYC. There are 100,000 of the stainless steel reproductions (with nonsense English words and numbers) on the nine foot tall structure entitled Some/One.

