

I learned to crochet from my grandmother who was a great creator of Afghans. I didn't stick with it though. When I was younger, concentrating on anything long enough to complete it was a huge challenge. Maybe about 15 years ago I tried to pick it up again and to teach myself to knit but it just didn't click. Then 6 years ago, I don't even remember why, I decided to resurrect these skills and see what would happen. It's been a theme in my life that I return to things that I set aside and try to rediscover them. Sometimes with surprising results. In the case of crocheting and knitting it was a revelation. I have never looked back. Yarn crafts have become a huge solace for me. Crocheting and knitting both force me to be in the moment. To concentrate on what is immediately before me, rather than being distracted by the noise of life. Pursuing these crafts is also good exercise for my brain. I learned something new with every project, every new yarn I work with, and thank heavens for YouTube. Having freely available video demonstrations is fantastic and has really helped me learn and grow as a crafter. Knitting is now what I spend most of my time doing, but the piece I submitted for this show is a work of crochet. If you aren't sure what the difference is, it's largely the tools you use. For knitting you use two needles, for crochet you use a hook. The pattern and color selection for this piece are by Johanna Lindahl who has created many highly detailed and visually satisfying crochet projects. I find her designs really intriguing and rich and creating the shawl was both challenging and fun at the same time. Thank you.