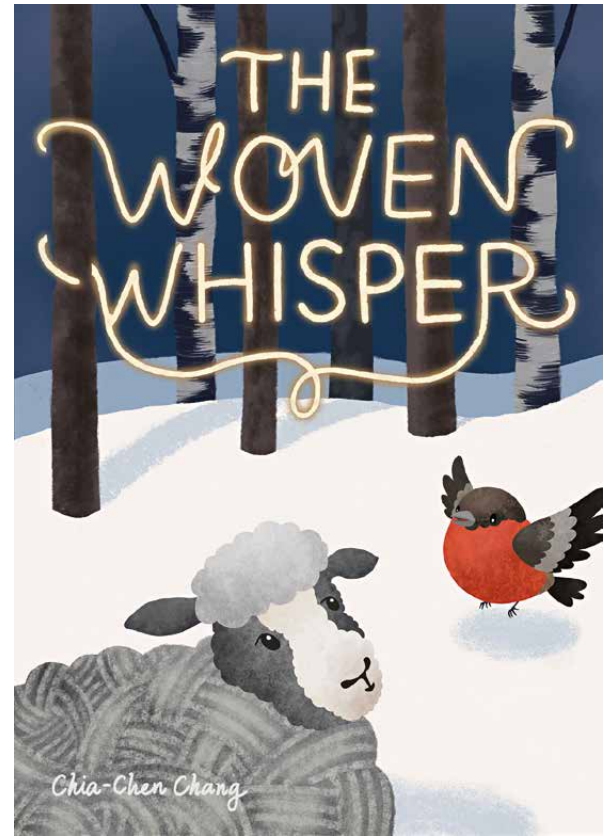




Woo!Box

Making is Connecting

Chia-Chen Chang

Woo!box is a DIY wool weaving toolkit paired with an illustrated storybook, combining hands-on craft with storytelling. It invites children and families to experience the joy of making things together, fostering learning, creativity, and emotional connection through wool craft.

The initial idea for *Woo!box* was to create a way for people to reconnect with the value and joy of handmade craft in an age dominated by digital devices and automation. The goal was to create a toolkit that encourages children's hands-on creativity, promotes shared learning experiences, and highlights the emotional and cultural significance of wool craft.

The *Woo!box* weaving toolkit includes wooden looms, yarn, and a wooden needle, enabling children to explore simple weaving techniques in an accessible and engaging way (Figure 1). The experience encourages playful creativity while developing hands-on skills. Accompanying the toolkit is *The Woven Whisper* (Chang, 2025), an illustrated booklet created by the author. It tells a gentle, cosy story about sheep, yarn, and the emotional bonds formed through handmade work (Figure 3). Together, the materials combine practical learning with narrative imagination.

The VillaInno team tested the loom's design to assess its functionality, clarity, and usability. The team looked at how well it guides users, whether its purpose is clear, and if the size and shape suit users of all ages, especially children. Insights from these trials helped refine the design of the loom,

◀◀◀ **FIGURE 1.** The *Woo! Box* design in the Villainno exhibition at the University of Lapland. Photograph: Chia-Chen Chang, 2025.

◀◀ **FIGURE 2.** The workshop *Weaving with Sheep* was supported by the Villainno project and delivered as part of the seminar programme. The workshop provided a relaxed and welcoming environment where participants could explore the *Woo!box* weaving kit. Photograph: Chia-Chen Chang, 2025.

◀ **FIGURE 3.** *The Woven Whisper* is an illustrated booklet that tells a gentle and cosy story about sheep, yarn, and the emotional bonds formed through handmade work. Illustration: Chia-Chen Chang, 2025.



▲ **FIGURE 4.** Participants explored various types of yarn, testing different textures and colours as they wove on the sheep-shaped loom. Photograph: Chia-Chen Chang, 2025.

enhancing accessibility and enjoyment for children and families.

The use of the entire toolkit was later piloted in the workshop *Weaving with Sheep*, led by the author at the VillaInno seminar (Figure 2). Participants included local yarn handcrafters, hobbyists, artisans, and students from the University of Lapland. Each participant wove with a sheep-shaped loom and experimented with different types of local yarn (Figure 4). The illustrated storybook was shared during the workshop, both complementing the hands-on weaving activity and naturally sparking informal conversations among participants.

As participants wove and interacted, reflections on the emotional and economic value of craft across various historical and social contexts arose organically through these dialogues. The relaxed and open atmosphere allowed shared experiences and perspectives to unfold spontaneously, highlighting both the personal and collective dimensions of making things by hand.

Woo!box shows diverse potential and can be adapted for a wide range of participants. Through hands-on creation, people of all ages engage with the ecocultural knowledge embedded in wool craft, gaining insight into how crafted objects embody and carry care, time, and intention in our lived experience (Figure 5).



FIGURES 5. Weaving pieces created by participants. Photographs: Chia-Chen Chang, 2025.

Making is connecting. By bringing together people, yarn, and stories, *Woo!box* highlights how craft reflects cultural memory, fosters social connection, expresses personal creativity, and embodies care for natural materials across generations.

References

Chang, C.-C. (2025). *The woven whisper*. University of Lapland. <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-337-519-2>