

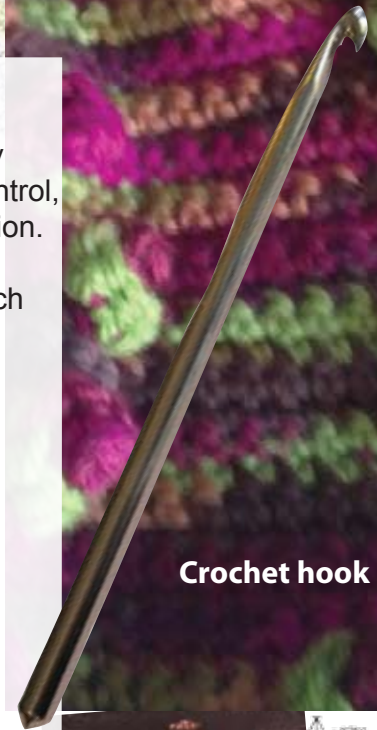
# Why We need things

In Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's essay Why We need things she discusses our dependency on objects. She talks about how objects are depleting our environment because they are rapidly become obsolete. These types of objects, which we usually control, end up controlling us as we try to make them create less pollution. So who controls whom? Object or human? Our relationships to objects become symbolic and at the same time the objects leech off us like a parasite. Objects seem to create a physiological need as they organize and balance us out. She goes on to say that things give us purpose because our identity can suffer and we regulate this by searching for things to make us feel better. Objects help us externalize the self by demonstrating power, mementos of time and finally through symbols of emotional relationships. Many types of objects symbolized power, kinetic objects, female related objects and objects associated with identity. Self-enhancing objects also entail power as they boost a person's opinion of themselves. Certain objects can go beyond these categories when they are objects that bring back memories. These objects have the owner feeling a sense of profound emotional connection to himself. At different times in your life the importance of types of objects change. Gender also affects the importance of certain objects. Objects can also be symbolic and cherished perhaps reminder of someone. We seem to need things to make us feel powerful, beautiful and have purpose. Luckily symbolic culture enriches us in different ways that objects don't. Lastly objects should be tools instead of something we depend on as part of our existence.

I am not surprised to read about how much people seem to need things. I am no immune to this I tend to keep things all the time. The way I finds this article relevant to my art practice is mainly in the reasons why people keep certain objects and their emotional relationship to them. This really intrigues me as it's as if the emotional attachment breathes life into an object. The story behind the object or any history gives the object multidimensional aspects. I like to question why people are obsessed with certain status symbols attached to objects. We also have lost the connection to the production value of our objects with mass production and globalization, which is something I tend to explore in my work.

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Crochet hook



Sewing machine



Silk Scarf

