HANGING OUT

In 1971, internationally renowned textile artist Yoshiko Iriuchi MacAdam was showing one of her 3D crochet sculptures at an art gallery when two children started climbing on her artwork. Instead of being annoyed, something clicked—she immediately realized the potential connection between her work and people. It changed her life. She began creating huge, beautiful textile play structures, first in Japan and then around the world—to the delight of children, adults and art critics alike.

Now at The New Children’s Museum in San Diego, visitors can enjoy MacAdam’s Whammock! This textile play structure resembles a giant hammock with colorful crocheted hexagons, open entry holes and five dangling pendulums, where children can crawl, climb, swing or just relax in the soft netting. It is installed on the museum’s upper level, with a view of the two floors below.

The netting was crocheted, by hand, out of 40 miles of braided nylon, which was also hand-dyed in 14 vibrant colors. Whammock! took 3,600 hours to construct, and it can hold 2 tons.

Visit thinkplaycreate.org for more information. —Gabriel Moseley