My current understanding of tinkering is allowing oneself the time to explore and be creative without having directions spelled out on how to make or use something.
ArtsECO Fellows 2020-2021 Therese Yank

Briefly explain what the artifact is and where it came from.

Over the past year, I had the opportunity to be in Germany. Around Christmas, at a quaint outdoor shop, I found a little lavender sachet that I bought as a gift for someone. Later in the summer, the lavender began to bloom near the house I was staying in, and the idea came, making my own sachets would be an even better gift. I picked bundles of lavender to dry to take home. Once home, I called an elderly friend whom I know has an abundance of material for sewing. She gladly gave me a suitcase of old transparent material and ribbons. One piece of material awakened my imagination with its embroidered flowers. I did not know what I was doing, but I cut out the material into the desired shapes that I wanted for my sachets. The project was my recreational artwork at the end of the summer and continued slowly during the semester. Finally, I am finishing it as my Christmas gift for friends and family.

Explain how the artifact represents your current thinking on tinkering.

My current understanding of tinkering is allowing oneself the time to explore and be creative without having directions spelled out on how to make or use something. My sewing project of lavender sachets represents this thinking in several ways. First, I learned to use a sewing machine only after I was twenty, and making a straight line is not easy. Every machine seems a little different, just to sit down in front of a sewing machine and trying to figure out how it works is an experience of tinkering for me. Secondly, in making this project, I did not have a pattern, other than the first sachet that I bought and another one that my friend sent me as an example. I did not want to pull either of them apart, but I turned the one inside-out to examine it and get an idea of how it was made. Then the material with its various embroidered flowers also lent itself to tinkering, because even after I had an idea of how to make the sachet, I had to adapt the pattern to the pieces that I cut out, depending upon the shape of the flower and where it was on the cloth. This project pushed my creativity and I had to tinker with both the machine and the cloth that I was using for it all to work out in the end!

Link to artifact:

drive.google.com/open?id=1lFnifZC6B8b87ddY7wydx819QYtQhKJMS9rXdMfjJ5w