



a natural state

Artist: Arianne King Comer

Video 4: The Land, Part D: Spanish Moss

King: One of the things that, of course, in, in this discovery that, that got me here was to have the Gullah people tell me that this is actually based in the cousin of a pineapple. I still haven't gotten that one. But that's what they say. And it's air bound and, because of the humidity...with the humidity here, it's what makes this grow.

The one thing that I also learned with the recycled art that I was doing...I do my pillows with this moss. And I had a friend, Melvin Chapman, who tells me these stories about this. This is what they used in their pillows, in their quilts. And I was asking him, because people now are telling me you can't use these because of the chiggers and things. Well, he said to me, "That's not a problem. You just ground up ginger and cloves, and it kills it." Well, just think about how this smells in a pillow or a quilting. But this is what they used.

And it's also medicinal, because they use it for arthritis to, to rid that. So this other part that's really interesting about this culture...

There's a flower. I didn't know it had a flower. Wow. Didn't know.

...is that everything has more than one use. So here you have this wonderful moss growing, but they use it for their own health, to keep them warm, as a cushioning and softener. They put it inside their shoe for supporting arthritic conditions.

I tell you, every story is just intriguing to me...of how they use what's around them.

End.