



a natural state

Artist: Jimmie Dinkins

Video 4: Art: A. The Approach

(Music, and rooster crowing) Things I do, I really don't look at it as artwork, I look at it as as things you do things anybody can do, things that people can use, things that make people think. You know I think we need more things that make people think. And not throw away everything.

Let me show you my latest project, this is the project I'm working on now. (Jimmy removes the cover from the hood of a car.) This is my barbecue grill..It is a Volkswagon Jetta that I took the engine out of and I'm turning it into like a barbecue grill. (Jimmie props up the hood to reveal a grill inside the chassis.) I'm still working on it though, it is one of my projects. This is going to be the grill right here. So you see, I can just hook that up right there and it will stay right there.

I hate to throw away anything, because you know, you can always use it for something else. And things are always real to me. Things are always real to me. I like whatever around me is "real".

(Jimmie moves through an area curtained with kudzu vines.)A lot of times, you know, when I'm going out in the woods and looking for stuff, you know, it is kind of already there. You have to look at it and see it. (Back at the house, Jimmie talks about a rustic hewn chair sitting in his kitchen.) This one I made in the woods while I was just out in the woods. This is made out of hickory. This is made out of hickory wood. This is just one type of chair that I make, you know. It is a great conversation piece plus it is usable, so you could go either way with it.

I just want to (something) Jimmie. (Jimmie is taking a soldering iron to some bamboo, the flames creating golden ringed round circles on the green branch.) The hotter it get, the more rosin come out, watch this...

This table is from a piece of wood that fell off of one of the 18 wheel trucks that was on the highway and I just stopped and picked it up and brought it here. It looked, it looked like something I could use, so I sit here one day and I made this table for me to use, so that is how this table came about. Actually the base is an ironing board stand.

(Outside, Jimmie walks by several of the folk art items that he has made, then sitting by a table.) See I made this table out of a wagon wheel. I found the wheel when I was out in the woods, wandering around. I found it out in the dirt, all rusted, so I cleaned it up and made a table out of it. You know, it is like part of your life, when you were small, you see wheels like this on a wagon and then, you know, twenty years later you see it laying out in the field, so it is kind of like a part of your whole life. So, you kind of make a table out of it, and bring back memories. Yes, it is here and you can remember when it used to be that this wheel was on some wagon some folks would haul wood. That's how folks survived. Its alive. (Music plays in the background as Jimmie moves through his shop and into the sunlight.)