



a natural state

Artist: Nancy Basket

Video 1: Spotlight (The Interview)

Basket: I make baskets out of all kinds of materials. The first material that I learned how to use was pine needles. It's my favorite. But I have learned how to make baskets out of things that have been growing in my backyard out of necessity. When I was in Chicago, we only had cattail leaves. That's what you used.

When I go to schools, I like the children to be able to continue the craft after I'm gone. And they have to be able to find their own materials, and then it's not so expensive to buy it at a store.

The natural world, to me, means how we can all do things together without harming the ship that we live on. You know, the natural world is something that is...grows by itself. You don't have to water it. It's just there. It grows because it loves growing. It just wants to express itself. Not that we have to take this and take it so far away that it's man-made. But the natural world lives just for the beauty of living.

I like the opportunity of going into the woods and communing with everything around me, and being simple and natural. I like having to do the work myself. I like knowing how to do that because that's what the native people did back in the day.

We rely on somebody else to do it for us. And technology is good, but I think if we get too far one way, you always need to have something to balance it out. I'm hoping always that the traditional art forms will be allowed to be alive. And if we don't continue that, then who's going to be able to be there to teach the children?