



a natural state

Artist: Nancy Basket

Video 6: Kudzu House

Basket: I had to have a place when I came to do all of my messy work with the paper, and I kept getting the floor stained up with the dye I use. So we had this barn here, and it was an old livery stable. It's at least a hundred years old...had no floor.

We took the boards off the side, strengthened the roof. And my friend bales kudzu in North Carolina. He brought the kudzu bales on the truck. It was parked right over there by my kudzu ravine. And we took it off and we had a work party.

We took the kudzu bales and we built a baling needle and we stuck it through the bales, attached it to the studs—and they weren't sixteen on center either. We had to take chainsaws and we had to cut part of them out just to make them fit. So we tied it all into the sides. Now I've got the sides of the barn that are the insulation walls at the same time. We stuccoed them on the outside. And they've been here for two years now.

They have bale construction homes way over a hundred years in Nebraska and the Plains, where they didn't have building material.

So this is what the stucco looks like, and this is smooth. I've got to put more layers on. But the last layer, when I finally get it done, I want to put the petroglyph images for South Carolina all over the sides...in blocks or something, so it looks good.

This is the inside of my kudzu bale barn.