



a natural state

Artist: Jimmie Dinkins

Video 1: Spotlight

[Jimmie Dinkins]

My name is Jimmie Dinkins and I guess I'm kind of self made artist. I make art out of found objects but my main thing is kudzu baskets, along with a lot of other found objects. I make, you know, chairs and a lot of yard art type thing. I guess my first thing was like Christmas wreaths. I started doing Christmas wreaths because you know Christmas wreaths were a kind of simple thing to do. I lucked, I guess I lucked into the basket thing, then I said "Aw, this is something that I can do", so then I started collecting the kudzu vines and started making a basket. (Wind sounds...) Then for about two years, I just made baskets. I never showed them to anybody...ah, never tried to sell them, or anything. And then after that, one day at a service station, I had some of them in my truck, and this lady says "Oh, you make baskets." And I said "Oh, yeah, I do make baskets", so, so that is how I got, I guess I turned over into the art world right there. (Music in the background and traffic noises.) At the service station, I said, "Aw, you know, I may be a little artist." Before long, people be all crowded around, just looking at my baskets. That give you a good feeling in your heart, you know, that you did something with your hands and that it is a natural product and people liked it. You made money...so, I guess it kind, kind of started from there. Well, from the basket making you know, in you know in your mind, you know if I can make something to set this basket on, you know the whole something works. You have something to set the basket on, and make the basket look better. Something rustic would go along better with the basket, so that is how I got into the art of making chairs. At first I made chairs to set the basket in, but then it got to the point where the chair can be used to sit in, so it kind of grew from that.