

Basket Weaving 101

Not

Carrie McGowan Bethel

Carrie McGowan Bethel was a Mono Lake Paiute - Kucadikadi basketmaker associated with Yosemite National Park. She was born Carrie McGowan in Lee Vining, California and began making baskets at age 12. She participated in basket making competitions in the Yosemite Indian Field Days in 1926 and 1929.

Master weaver Carrie Bethel's artistic genius is seen in the creative, multicolored backgrounds and designs she produced using materials from the landscape, such as sedge root. This large-scale basket took her three years to complete, and it is the earliest of five monumental works she created. She was awarded the best basket prize of \$50 for this piece in the 1929 Yosemite National Park Indian Field Days competition, organized by the park service to encourage basketry as an art form. She later sold the work for \$180, a large sum at the time.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPuE7BmNvus>





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Pomo Basketry

- <https://www.craftinamerica.org/short/sherr-ie-smith-ferri-on-pomo-coil-baskets>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiG5HbzDHuE> (Corinne Pearce)
- Clint McKay
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cjk9SMEXVLw>









Iva Honyestewa

In a small room that connects Iskasokpu Gallery to the home of Iva Honyestewa, floor-to-ceiling shelves line the walls and a window looks out over an Arizona canyon striated in color. Iva—Hopi name Honwynum, which means Female Bear Walking—weaves two traditional Hopi baskets, the coil (poota) and the sifter (tutsaya). For Iva, basketweaving is both a spiritual endeavor and a communal activity. When she weaves alone, it's meditation. When she weaves with others, it's a time to talk and laugh. Iva's creation, the pootsaya, emerged in 2014, during her artist residency at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, and it's the first of its kind in the world. Now, Iva and her niece Reba Ann Lomayestewa, whom Iva taught how to weave the pootsaya, are the only basketweavers making it.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbBl1d0isgQ>



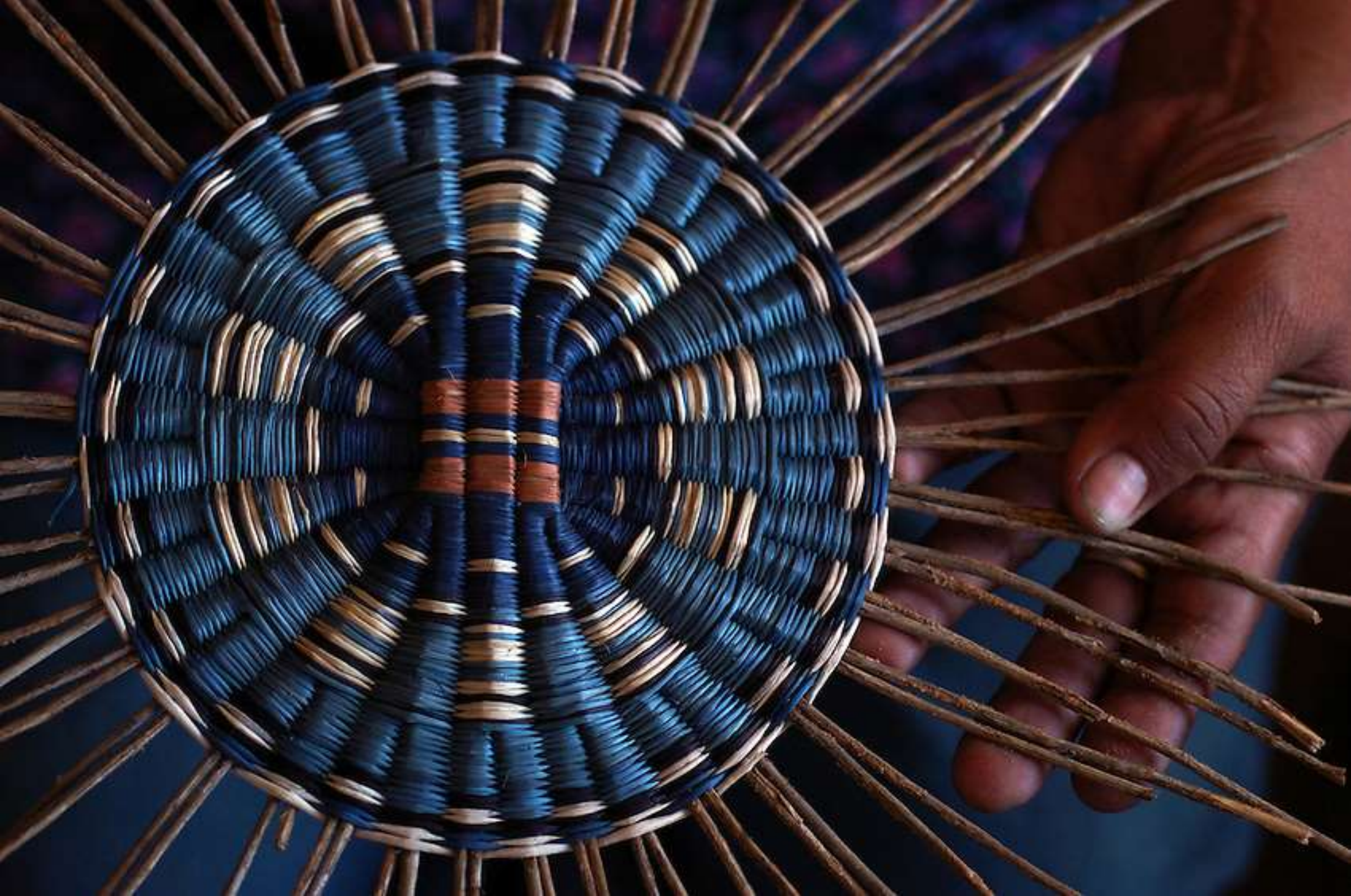


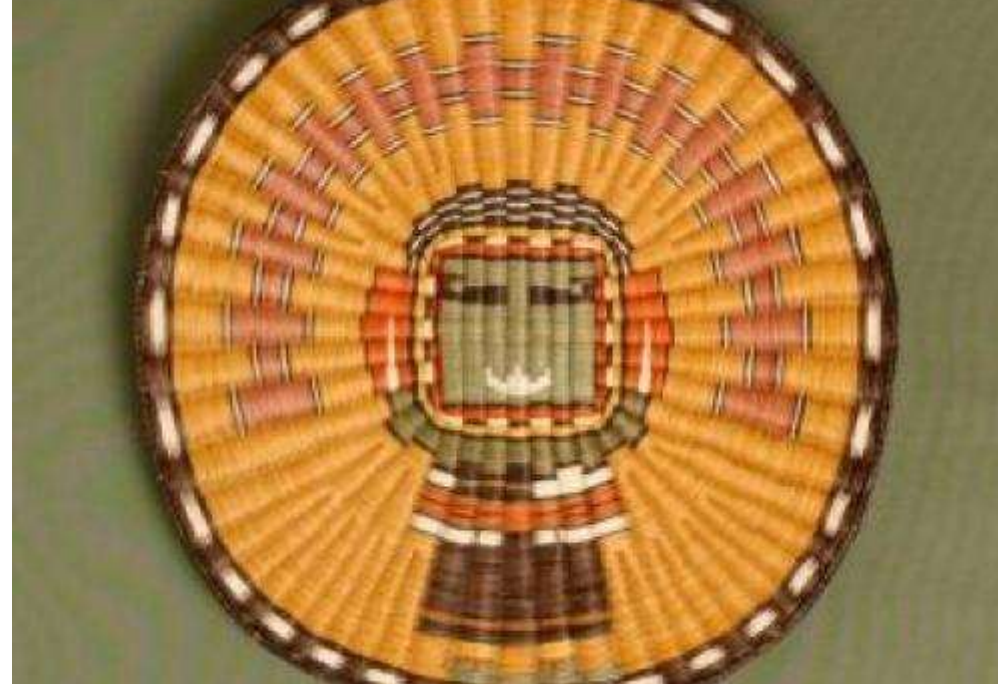
Ruby Chimerica

Ruby Chimerica (Hopi) from the Third Mesa village, Bacavi, on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona, specializes in hands-on demonstrations of Hopi basket weaving and the preparation of traditional Hopi foods, including piki bread-making. Piki, made with blue corn and culinary ash, is shared and eaten at many community celebrations, festival and dances.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6krPe6wFqg> (8.5 mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2C5XEKQxt4> (3.5 mins)







Black Ash Basketry

Ash basket craft is traditional from the Northeastern to the upper Midwestern United States, as well as in southeastern Canada. Baskets woven from black or brown ash are traditionally functional as well as decorative. Ash is a strong, flexible and durable weaving material that will last beautifully for decades even with constant use. The Native Nations in the Black Ash range areas, including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Wabenaki, Ho-Chunk, and Menominee, have woven baskets from the Black Ash tree for thousands of years. The tree and the tradition, however, are impacted by the influx and repercussions of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yimlUtd0Pao>



Kelly Church

Kelly Church is Ottawa/Pottawatomi, descended from the Gun Lake and Grand Traverse Bands. She has an experienced master's eye for selecting the best black ash tree to provide the best material for her to create a vast array of baskets, from designed black ash baskets to Summer Strawberry Blossoms.

- <https://www.firstpeoplesfund.org/kelly-church>









History of Sweet Grass Basketry

This basket-making tradition came to South Carolina in the 17th century by way of West African slaves who were brought to America to work on plantations. West Africa resembles South Carolina in both climate and landscape, and rice had long been cultivated there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Fpki5IqcS4>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot5wJxyYCNl>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyGIBBQqQcg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQvAIJRd93g>



Mary Jackson

With more than 50 resident Gullah artisans, the Charleston City Market is the very epicenter of sweetgrass basketry, one of the nation's oldest and most beautiful handicrafts of African origin.

For more than 300 years, people in Charleston have been weaving baskets using locally-harvested bulrush, a strong yet supple marshgrass that thrives in the sandy soil of Lowcountry. Originally used as winnowing fans to separate the rice seed from its chaff, sweetgrass baskets are regarded among the nation's most prized cultural souvenirs.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's permanent collection includes a sweetgrass basket made by Mary Jackson, whose finely detailed, sculptural baskets first appeared at the Charleston City Market in 1980. Her devotion to the centuries-old craft was recognized on the world stage in 2008 when the MacArthur Foundation named Mary a MacArthur Fellow, an unsolicited global recognition of greatness that is accompanied by a \$500,000 fellowship, often referred to as the "genius grant."

Now in her 70s, Mary works on private commissions out of her personal studio, and the next generation of Gullah weavers are sharing the time-honored tradition of sweetgrass baskets with visitors to the Charleston City Market. One such young artist is Corey Alston. Representing the fifth generation of his family to weave baskets, Corey recently shared his passion and knowledge with the Tennis Channel. Special thanks to Tennis Channel for allowing us to share the video clip here.

<https://www.craftinamerica.org/artist/mary-jackson/>







Courtesy: arts.gov
Photo by Tom Pich



Rattan Art

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N88TwF4D2PI> (why so expensive)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARoz55IGZg>

Sopheap Pich

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY6fYC4j10Q&t=14s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_WGEqBcL5s
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ib95sNIjx_E



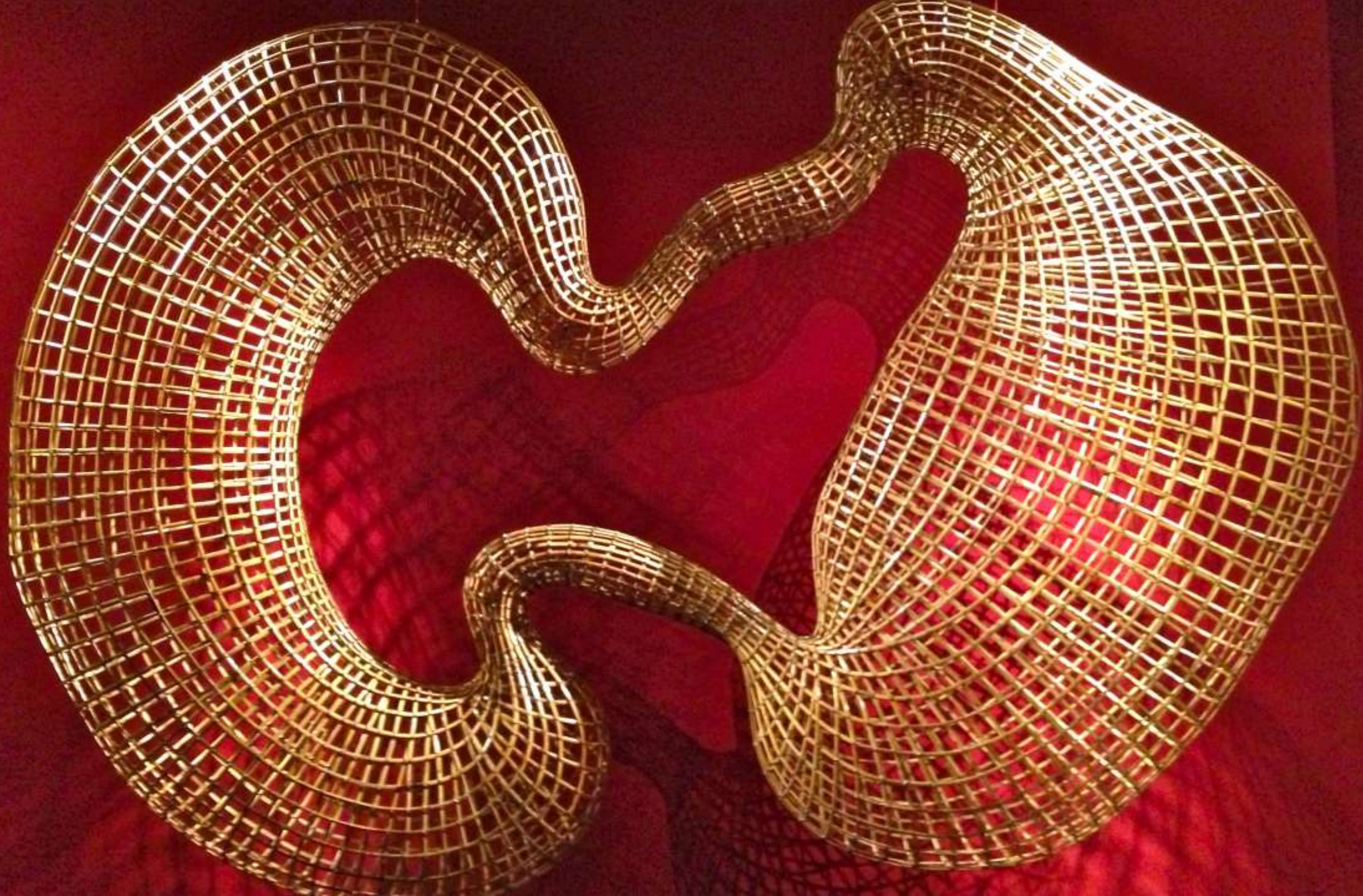












Thailand Rattan

- <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2022/11/enter-projects-asia-chiang-mai/>

Trung Nghia

Trung Nghia brought to the exhibition the memories from his fatherland – Quang Nam (a province in central Vietnam). It's a place surrounded by bamboo bushes, and the local residents use bamboo as the main material for woven floors, ceiling panels as well as everyday household appliances.

The name of this exhibition was borrowed from Vietnamese folk poetry. It means – *when the bamboo baskets are worn out, remember we still have the bamboo banks*. My way of understanding this folk poetry is – *when our glorious and flashy things are disappeared, we still have our roots stand strong*.

<https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/ttnewsstyle/20201113/vietnamese-artist-elevates-rattan-bamboo-in-contemporary-art-installation/57748.html>

- <https://danchi-studio.com/exhibition-nat-gio-con-bo-tre/>





Japanese Bamboo Art

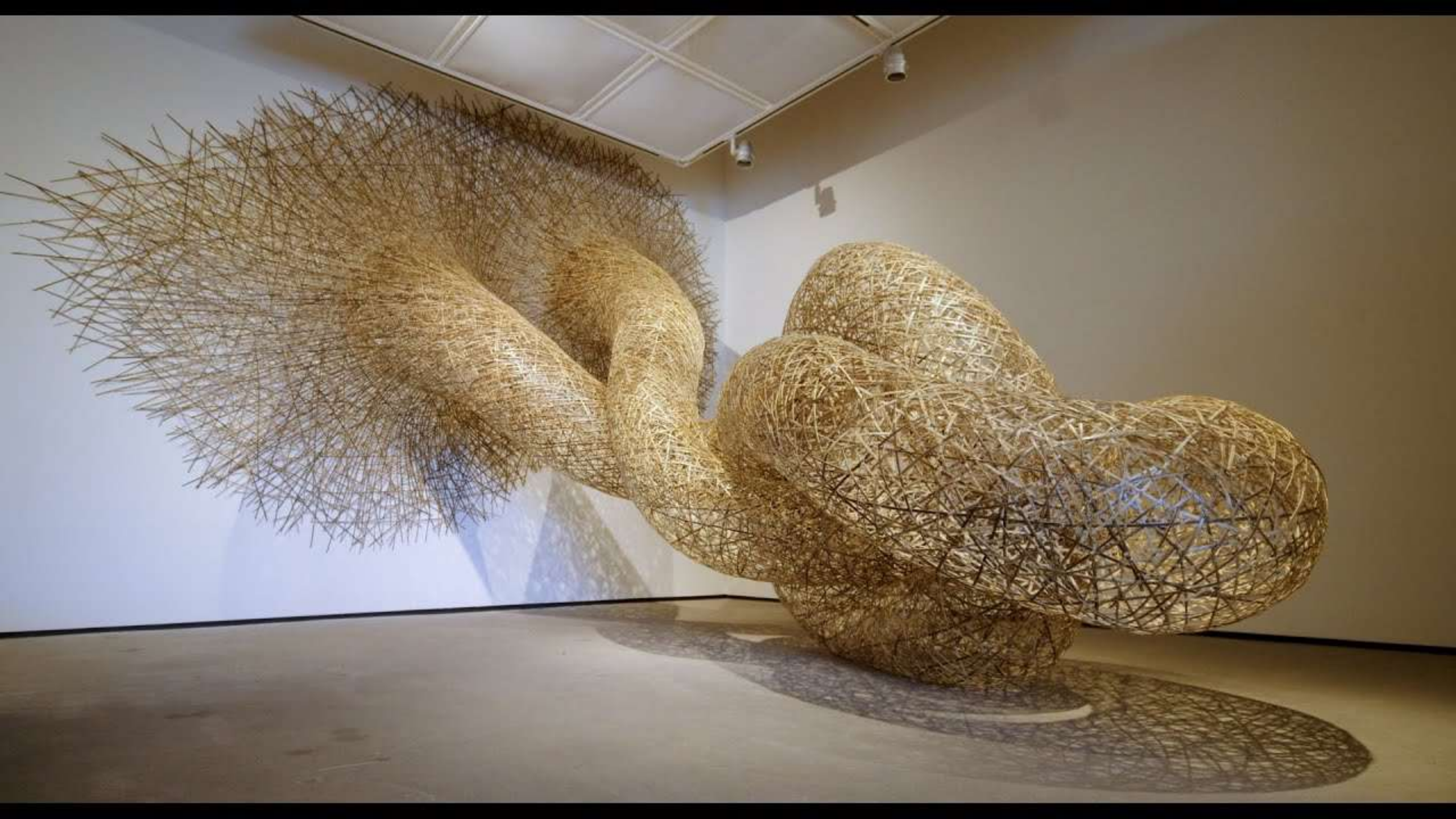
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_aV6ERUYqc
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/japanese-bamboo-art>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPTatD_UraE

Tanabe Chikuunsai

Tanabe Chikuunsai IV is a Japanese bamboo artist. His sculptural works and functional objects are hand made from tiger bamboo. He is a fourth generation bamboo master. His family name, Chikuunsai means "master of the bamboo clouds".

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai-8RIZE43k&t=12s>
- <https://www.culturalnews.com/?p=36321> (Japan House—LA)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyupgb0oRsc&t=28s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfHqjonsQAY> (6 mins)





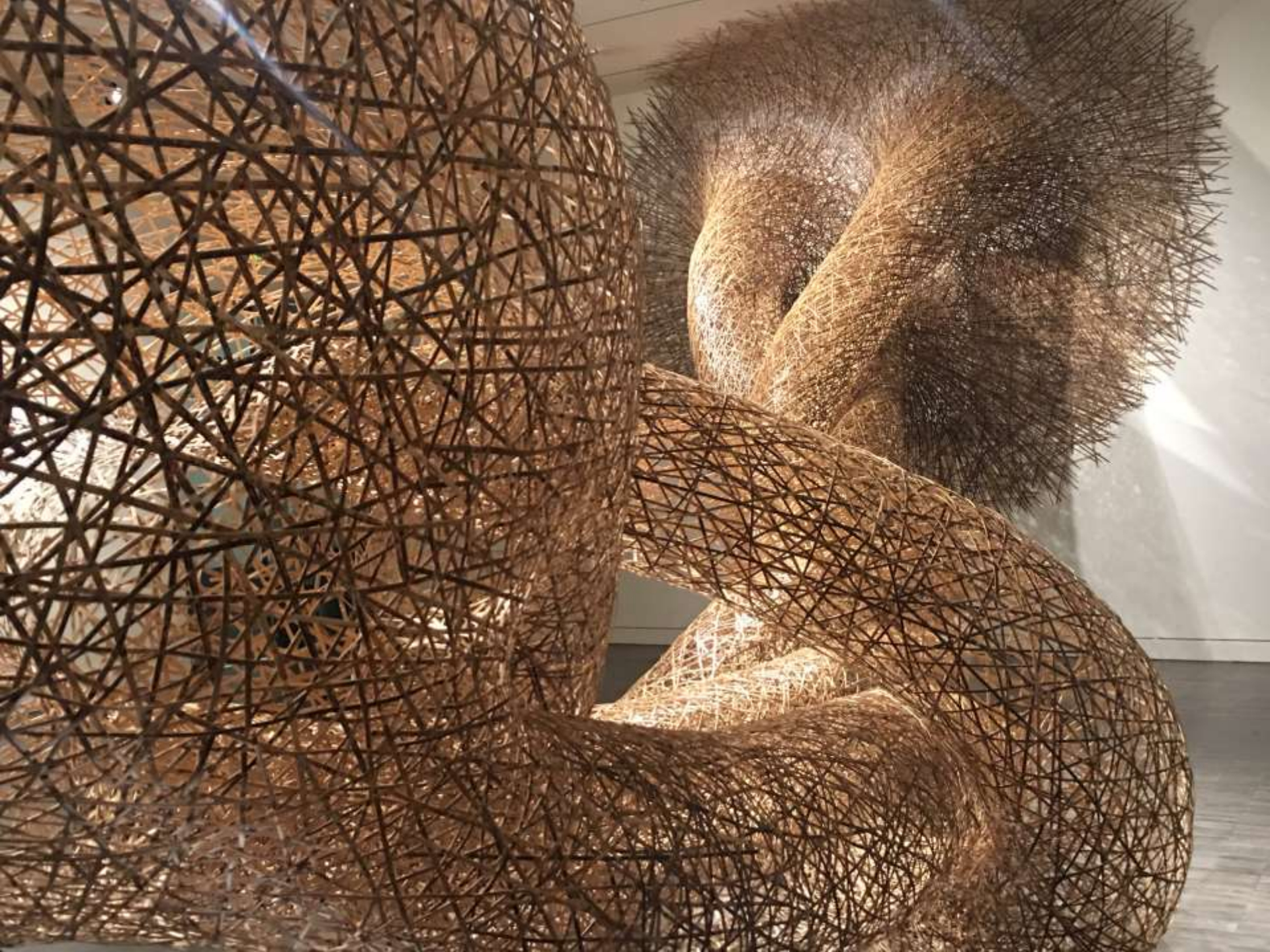














Shochiku Tanabe

- <https://japanobjects.com/features/japanese-bamboo-art>







Photo by Jiro Fujiwara © 正木美術館





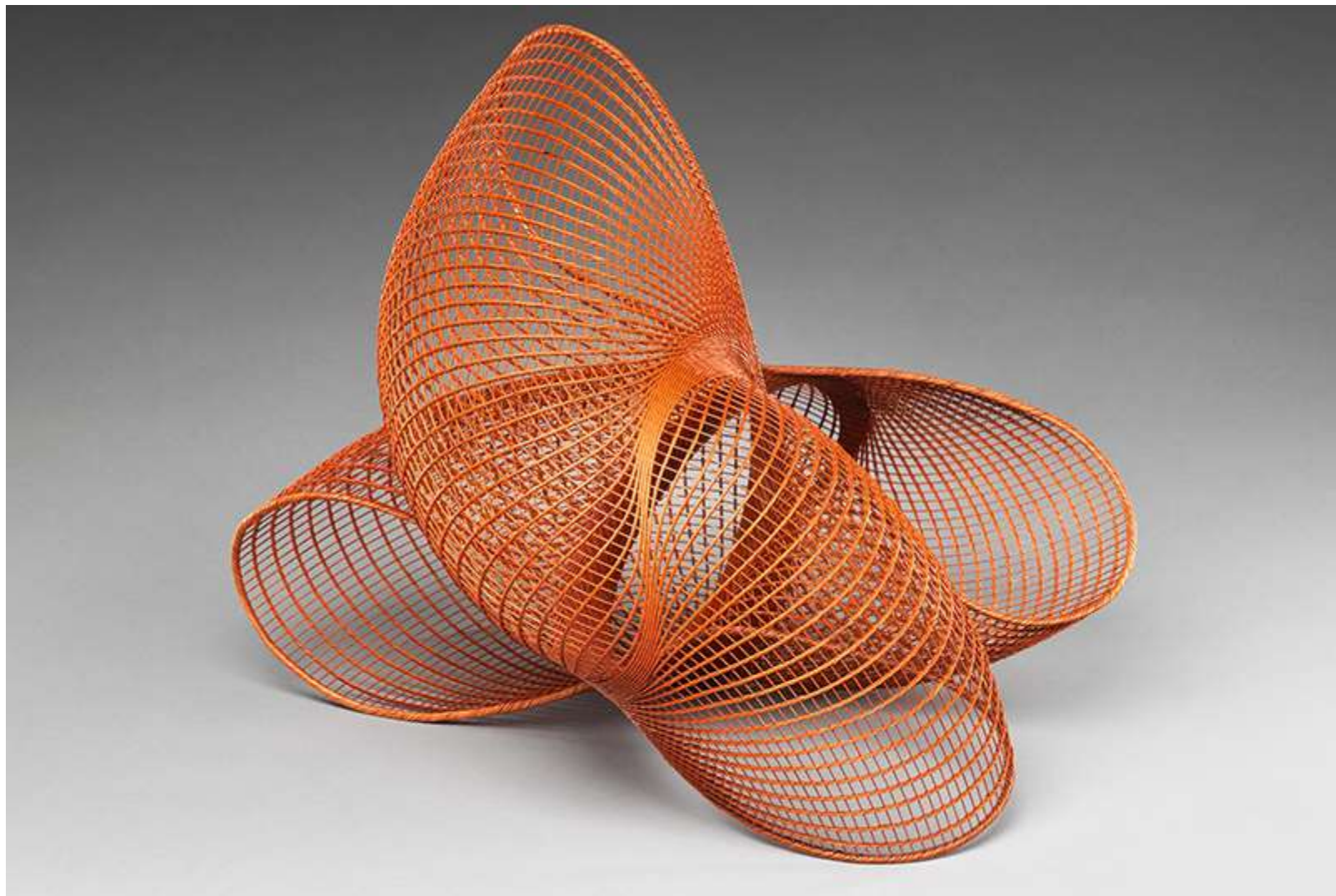
Honda Syoryu

Honda Syoryu was born in 1951 in Kagoshima, on the southwestern tip of Kyushu Island. His family made functional bamboo products.

<https://fb.watch/gTOHOgUjzm/>









Tanaka Kyokusho

- <https://www.google.com/search?q=Tanaka+Kyokusho&oq=Tanaka+Kyokusho&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i10i22i30j69i61.1276j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:4c3a2b1d,vid:fyODs2beEs>
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=Tanaka+Kyokusho&oq=Tanaka+Kyokusho&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i10i22i30j69i61.1276j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:c796db75,vid:vk2fAnE-Oho>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY1LRLsCbOs> (1:29)







Philippines

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcDg-pco0qg>
- Panama/Columbia
- Embera
- <https://rainforestbaskets.com/>

Assignment Suggestions...

- Use a basket or basket weave as an inspiration for an artwork
- Weave found materials into an artwork
- Photograph a still life with baskets