

The Amazing World of Fiber Art

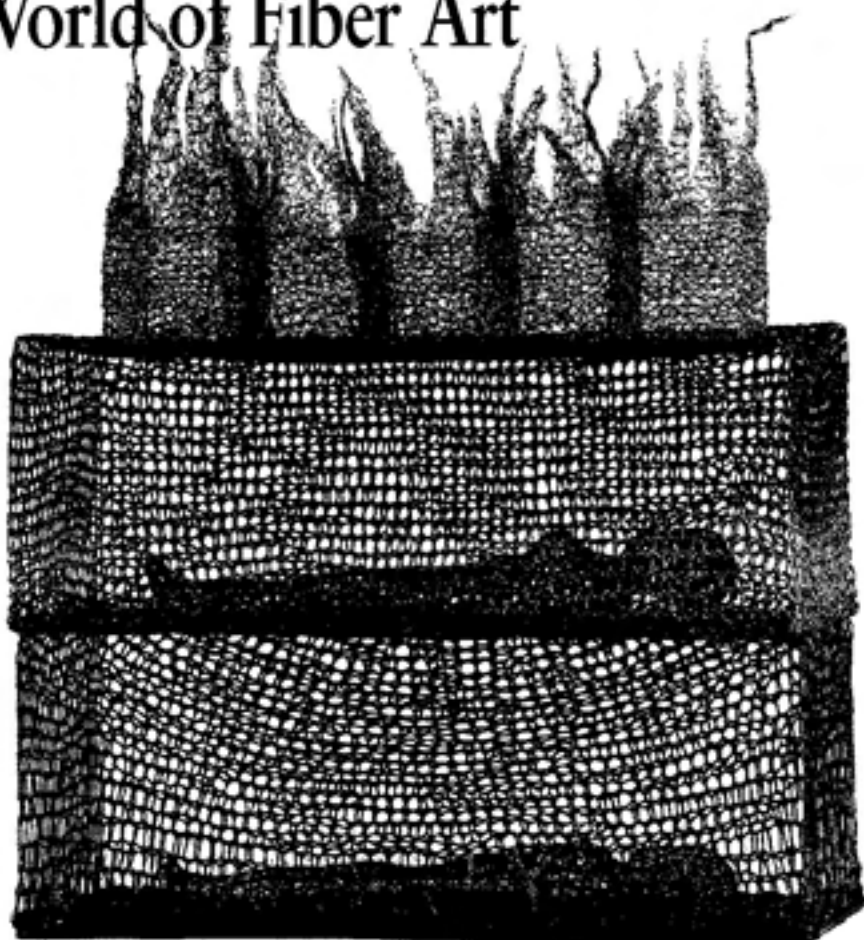
March 8 to July 5, 1998

by Carol Dean Krute

Fiber art is the name given to textile creations that do not fit into traditional categories. These objects can be fabricated from natural and manmade fibers and/or metal, wood, glass, plastic, paper and string, which are interlaced, knotted, felted, molded or otherwise made into a bewildering variety of two- or three-dimensional forms.

Through a selection of objects from the Wadsworth's collection, this exhibition looks into the work of some of the best known artists in this diverse field, including Anni Albers (1899-1994), who explored complex constructions through her hand-loomed "art weavings;" and Dorothy Liebes (1899-1972), who incorporated ribbons, beads, bamboo, ticker tape and leather in her experimental work.

Other artists represented include Jack Lenor Larsen, who champions new fibers and technologies through his high-tech textiles; and his mentor, Ed Rossbach, who produces exquisitely crafted three-dimensional objects and off-the-loom textiles



Norma Minkowitz, *Permeance*, 1990. Cotton, metal, paint, shellac. The Florence Paull Berger Fund.

using quirky, "valueless" materials, such as newspaper, string, rags and plastic. In addition, there are works by Carolyn Mazloomi, who uses traditional quilting techniques to produce graphic images with African-American themes; Norma Minkowitz, who uses traditional crochet techniques in a unique way to create introspective fiber sculptures; and Gerhardt Knode, who expands the warp/weft grid to monumental proportions and constructs fiberworks that transform space.

These inventive spirits have woven a brave new world of fiber art, one which is continually evolving.

We cannot imagine what might come next. We can only wait to be surprised, as we will be when the museum's newest fiber art acquisition is unveiled for this exhibition's opening.

Carol Dean Krute is Curator of Costume and Textiles at the Wadsworth

This exhibition is generously supported by The Costume & Textile Society of the Wadsworth Athenaeum.