



LEFT: *Column*, 1981, coiled mixed threads, 23"x5"x2", by Ferne Jacobs. OPPOSITE PAGE TOP LEFT: Hanging basket, 1981, waxed linen, 30"x3", by Gary Trentham. RIGHT: *Light Gatherer*, 1981, bronze wire mesh formed in a wood stump, heat colored, 9"x14", by Elliott Pujol. BOTTOM: *Structure*, 1981, plaited brown art clay, 32"x22"x15", by Rina Peleg.

Basketry: Tradition in New Form

“Contemporary basketry involves the spatial relationships of volume and surface, enclosure and access, texture and line—all the structural and aesthetic elements of symbolic vessel forms,” writes Bernard Kerter in the catalog for the exhibition “Basketry: Tradition in New Form.” Often inspired by traditional basketry, but uninterested in imitating it, the ten artists in this exhibition create personal and expressive forms that transform linear pliable materials. They employ natural fibers, as the work of Douglas Fuchs, Ferne Jacobs, Carol Goss-Cland, Carol Shaw-Sutton, Kay Sekimachi, Gary Trentham and John McQueen, or utilize plastics, metal and clay, in pieces by John Garrett, Elliott Pujol and Rina Peleg. Plaiting, coiling, wickerwork, twining—age-old techniques of basketmaking—are drawn upon as well as other methods, such as lashing, stitching and meshwork. “Basketry: Tradition in New Form” evidences the exciting spirit of contemporary craftsmen challenged by the discipline and beauty of the medium, and linked to its tradition and history by technical, material or symbolic reference.

Originated by the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts (January 12-February 28), the exhibition is currently at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Design New York City (June 8-August 22). It concludes its tour at the Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina (September 18-January 3, 1983). □

Basketry: Tradition in New Form, a 19-page catalog with 5 color and 1 black-and-white photographs, is available for \$5 including postage and handling from Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st Street, New York, New York 10028.



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