Informed Source

Pat Hickman

My signature material continues to be an animal membrane, a translucent, permeable, inner skin, close to life. This hog casing or gut is altered, becoming an exterior planar skin or a linear structural component. It is malleable when wet, picking up the mark of a wire net, an old nail, or a bed frame abandoned in the wash. The tanned skin leaves its stain on the guts, what is ephemeral suggests what is lasting—walls or parchment, penned by an ancient hand. Playing with these materials I explore memory, loss, aging, mortality—calling attention, bringing them to mind.

—Pat Hickman, who recently retired as Chair of the Fiber Art Department at the University of Hawaii, now lives in Nantucket, New York. Pat Hickman was Professor and Head of the Fiber Program, University of Hawaii Art Department, 1990-2000. She is known for her sculptural baskets and the translations of fiber to metal. She has exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally, and her artworks are in major collections including those of the Oakland Museum, the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the Hawaii State Art Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery. In Japan, Hickman's commissioned Nets of Masaki—Nets of the Blade—stand as monumental entrance gates for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center.

In 1990 Hickman received a Hawaii State Foundation Individual Artist/Visual Art Fellowship, and twice received NEA Individual Artists' Grants. In 2005, she was elected a Fellow of the American Craft Council. Hickman curated Weavers/Outskins: Gut and Fishskin and Basket—Redefining Volume and Meaning. Hickman was the art representative on the Seattle Society of America Board, 1994-2002, and is currently TSA Vice-President and President-elect. She now resides in Nantucket, New York.