

Jackie Abrams
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BEYOND THE BASICS: Jackie Abrams and Friends

Juror / teacher statement

The greatest sign of success for the teacher ... is to be able to say,
'The children are now working as if I did not exist.' -- Maria
Montessori

I love to teach.

Since 1975, I have savored the challenge of working with each student as an individual, adapting to varying degrees of proficiency, and helping each one learn the techniques of contemporary basketry.

Each student is different; they have their own voice to find and explore. My role has been to teach them the foundations, help them acquire further skills, stimulate their creativity, and encourage them to discover their unique voices.

"Beyond the Basics" is a celebration of these students' creativity. It is gratifying to see how they have taken the techniques and concepts taught in class (the "basics") and used them in their own creative work. Their technical skills and innovative interpretations of "the basics" have resulted in pieces which explore colors, textures, concepts, and forms. They have gone beyond the basics.

As I look at their work, I am reminded why I love to teach.