

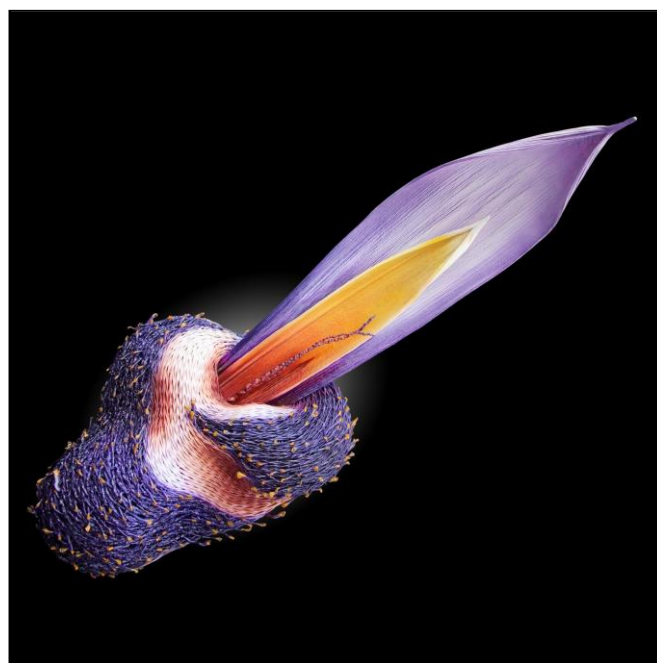


**Sally J. Bright, Artist Judge
Hot Works.org 17th annual
Orchard Lake Fine Art Show®
July 27 & 28, 2019
West Bloomfield, MI
SallyJBright.com**

ARTISTIC HISTORY

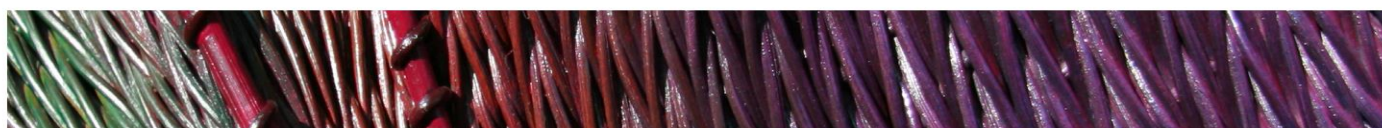
Like each of you, I've "done" art forever & finally landed in the craft of basketry in 1982. I signed up for a class on the basics of basket weaving, but did not follow the directions from the workshop teacher. Instead I forged my own techniques and style. After 33 years of doing Art Shows, I retired from them in March of 2018, at the end of the Gasparilla Arts Festival, in Tampa, Florida.

When choosing art to buy, or judging art in shows or exhibitions, I look for excellence of technique and craftsmanship, and creative ideas in both subject matter and execution of abstract ideas into physical form. When I visit your booth, tell me what makes your art different from other work in the same category.



INDUSTRY SERVICE

Oct 14-Present	Director position on the Board for Fenton Arts Council (FAC, Fenton, MI)
Nov 14-Present	FAC webmaster, newsletter editor and Communications Chair
Sep 2003–Dec 2009	National Association of Independent Artists (NAIA), Director
2006–Dec 2009	NAIA webmaster
Jan 2007–Dec 2009	Chairman of the NAIA Board of Directors
Oct 2007–Dec 2009	Acting Executive Director of NAIA
2000 – 2011	Creator and owner of ArtShowArtists.com, a free directory of over 3,000 artists that exhibit in art shows as part of their arts business. The site is now obsolete however the photos and data are archived.



Sally J. Bright, Basekry Sculpture, page 2 of 3

Imagine a large, convoluted shape of air. Next imagine weaving vine-like pieces of rattan and palm around that shape to enclose and define it. That is how these shapes are created.

“A piece may begin as a response to a mood, the essence of a shape, or a feeling about a material or color combination. The most successful work comes when I am able to sustain that feeling and follow it, allowing the piece to become what it needs to be. Certainly I look to create beauty. More importantly, I look to evoke an emotional reaction within the person viewing a work.”

Each basket is an original creation, designed and woven entirely by Sally without assistance from employees, apprentices or helpers. She first studies an idea through drawings and fashioning small clay models. As she begins work on the actual piece, Sally mentally/visually enlarges the design to full size. She does not use molds or armatures to form her creations. The flowing shapes are deliberately formed during the weaving; gradually building the shape one row, one ‘stitch’ at a time. Her creations are woven mostly of rattan and palm. After completion of the weaving, she applies 40 – 50 coats of translucent acrylic paint, and several coats of sealant. Depending on the intricacy of the design and the detail involved, it may take up to three months to complete a piece.



AWARDS

AWARD of EXCELLENCE	Tampa, FL	2014
BEST of SHOW	Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, MI	2013
AWARD of EXCELLENCE	Orchard Lake Fine Art Show, MI	2012
AWARD of EXCELLENCE	Fort Worth, TX	2012
BEST of MEDIUM	Estero, FL	2012, 2013
BEST of MEDIUM	Boca Raton, FL	2011
BEST of MEDIUM	Estero, FL	2012, 2011
BEST of SHOW	Estero, FL	2010
BEST of SHOW - 3D	Kansas City, MO	2009
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE	Kansas City, MO	2008
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE	Tampa, FL	2008
BEST of SHOW	Birmingham, MI	2005
BEST of SHOW	Bonita Springs, FL	2004
BEST of SHOW	Sun Valley, ID	2001
Fine Crafts, 3 rd Place	Northern Virginia Arts Show, Reston, VA	2003
BEST of MEDIUM	Boca Raton Museum, Boca Raton, FL	2003
AWARD OF DISTINCTION	Bonita Springs National, Bonita Springs, FL	2003
BEST of SHOW	Lafayette Art Festival, Lafayette, IN	2002
JUDGES AWARD	Main St. Art Festival, Ft. Worth, TX	2002
AWARD OF DISTINCTION	Bonita Springs National, Bonita Springs, FL	2002
BEST of MEDIUM	Austin Fine Arts Festival, Austin, TX	2000
BEST of MEDIUM	Lakefront Art Festival, Milwaukee	1998
BEST of MEDIUM	Fine Crafts Show, Highland Park, IL	2000
BEST of SHOW	New Orleans Jazz Fest, New Orleans	1999
BEST of SHOW	Artigras, W. Palm Beach	1998
BEST of SHOW	Lakeshore Festival, Evanston, IL	1995
BEST of MEDIUM	Lakeshore Festival, Evanston, IL	1998, 1997
2 nd BEST of SHOW	Las Olas Museum Show, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	1996
BEST of SHOW	Manatee Fine Arts Fest, Crystal River, FL	1996
Artistic Excellence Award	Atlanta Arts Festival, Atlanta	1997, 1996
FIRST PLACE	TS Festival of Art, Tarpon Springs, FL	1999
Artistic Excellence Award	Arts, Beats & Eats, Pontiac, MI	1999
2 nd PLACE	Artigras, W. Palm Beach	1999
JUDGES AWARD	Cain Park Festival, Cleveland Heights, OH	1997, 1996
MERIT AWARD	Columbus Art Fair, Columbus, OH	1996
MERIT AWARD	Uptown Arts Fair, Minneapolis, MN	1994, 1993
Artistic Excellence Award	Colorado Indian Market, Denver, CO	1999

Sally Bright, Basketry Sculpture, page 3 of 3

EXHIBITS

Solo Invitational Exhibit at the Ferris Wheel, Flint, MI	2018
LAAC Fine Art Exhibit, Fenton, MI	2015
Invitational Exhibit at Sotheby's, Islamorada, FL	2012
Solo Exhibit, Jazz Baskets, Peoria, IL	2011
Invitational Winner's Exhibit, Reston, VA	2004
Invitational Exhibit with the Gatherers, Keystone, Colorado	2002
Invitational Exhibit with the Gatherers, Omaha, Nebraska	2002
Greater Flint Arts Council, Flint, Michigan (2 nd place award)	2002
Genesys Hospital Art Exhibit, Flint, Michigan, Washington, D.C.	2002
Kennedy Center Invitational	1999
Best of Guild Exhibit (Michigan National Arts Guild), Ann Arbor, MI	1991
Solo Exhibit at Curwood Castle, Owosso, MI	1988
Basketweave 88, Athens, OH	1988
Solo Exhibit at American Hartland Theatre, Kansas City, MO	1997
Fiber Celebrated, Northern Arizona University	1987
Cotton Daze – Summer Haze, Louisiana State University	1987

COLLECTIONS

Amoco, US Ambassador to Estonia official residence, State of Michigan, Longmont United Hospital, Barnett Bank, MSI Insurance, Morgan & Myers, Buffalo Ridge Insurance, Expert DesignWare, Odyssey Marine Exploration, Creative Strategies Group, M Crowd Restaurant Group

JUDGING

Estero Fine Art Show	2015
Orchard Lake Fine Art Show	2012
Sun Valley Art & Craft Festival	2003
Arts, Beats & Eats (Art/Craft Fest)	2003

TECHNIQUE

Imagine a large, convoluted shape of air. Next imagine weaving vinelike pieces of rattan and palm around that shape to enclose and define it. That is how these shapes are created. The artist first designs the shape in clay, about 5" x 8", then mentally enlarges the design to full size. The next step is determining how to bend the warp and weft around this virtual shape of air to actually weave the piece, while retaining the integrity of the weave and creating a sturdy, valid sculpture. The color design is also planned ahead and woven into the piece – not just painted on after weaving. There are no molds or armature used under the weaving, the piece is it's own armature. There are no assistants, employees or helpers.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As I look for new challenges the work becomes more complex. Sometimes a piece begins as a response to a material or a color combination, but usually the 'feeling' of the 'essence' of a shape or a mood are the beginning. The most successful work comes when I am able to sustain that 'essence' and follow it - when I give in and allow the piece to become what it needs to be. This does not mean there is no thought behind a piece - there are design and craftsmanship decisions to make every minute. My goal is to continually stretch the definition of what the ancient craft of basketry can be. To excite emotion in the viewer. To increase the complexity of my work. To create beauty.

EDUCATION

Associates Degree in Art from Mott College, Flint, Michigan
Continuing education classes on techniques every year or two

