

Art in the Garden

Deloss Webber:
Small Blessings in Bamboo and Stone

Winter 2010



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No matter which medium Deloss Webber explores—from stone to bamboo to salvaged cloth—he leads us to a greater appreciation of the natural world. Both his signature “Small Blessings” wrapped stones and his larger sculptural works meld organic with inorganic materials, creating new forms that bring together the natural beauty of stone with the masterful touch of traditional Japanese and contemporary basketry weaving techniques.

Del views his treatment of stone as an expression of reverence for nature. He takes into consideration the individual qualities of each stone, its contours, color, and size, and combines them with his own design of wrapped and woven fibers. Just as in a Japanese garden, a heightened awareness of the beauty of nature is brought to our attention through the eyes and hands of the artist.

Incorporating knotting techniques from traditional Japanese and Native American basketry, wicker furniture, loom weaving, fly-tying, and nautical knotting, Del selects and wraps each stone with a unique design made of various materials including bamboo, cane, rattan, and reed. Heavily influenced by Japanese Ikebana basketry, Del often integrates traditional Japanese knotting techniques such as butterfly knots, insect wrapping, interlocking V-knots, and spiral cross knots into his designs.

As a second-generation weaver, Del learned basic weaving techniques from his mother, who also exposed him to numerous ethnic forms of weaving from an early age. Born in 1951, he spent his childhood in Northern Africa, Spain, and throughout the United States.

He learned Japanese basket weaving techniques later in his career by studying antique ikebana baskets in the collection of the owners of Kagedo Japanese Art Gallery in Seattle, where he currently resides. His unique adaptations of ideas and patterns derived from those baskets are much admired today by bamboo artists and weavers around the world. He currently resides near Seattle.



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📷 All Photos: Jonathan Ley

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