

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP: MARKETING FOR CRAFTS

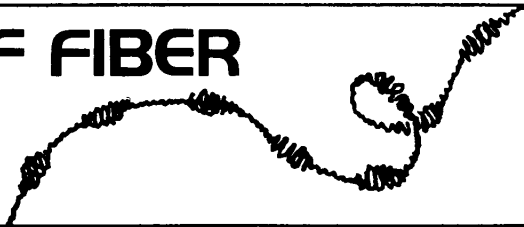
"Focus on Crafts: Marketing" will begin at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 20.

An invitational craft exhibition and film festival will open the conference to be held in McNeal Hall, the new multi-million dollar Home Economics facility which houses the department of Design. Other conference events are scheduled including a tour of the Institute.

Participants at the conference may choose to attend four workshops out of such varied topics as costing and cost analysis, cooperatives, grant writing, publicity, photography, wholesaling, retailing, agents, marketing designs, and resources such as Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The conference is sponsored by the National Association of Handcraftsmen in cooperation with the Office of Special Programs and the College of Home Economics, University of Minnesota, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Attendance is limited to 500 registrants. For further information, contact Joseph C. Ordos, Department of Design, McNeal Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55108; or Gerald Wagner, Office of Special Programs, University of Minnesota, Coffey Hall, St. Paul 55108, phone: 373-0725.

## OF FIBER



by Cathy Ingebretsen

I originally conceived this list to encourage experimentation in basketry. I feel though, that the materials and fibers used often overlap between one technique and another. It's as unnecessary to limit oneself to weaving only with wool, cotton, and linen, as it is to limit oneself to making baskets only with round reed and raffia. You might want to consider trying some of these materials with whatever form of fiber manipulation you use.

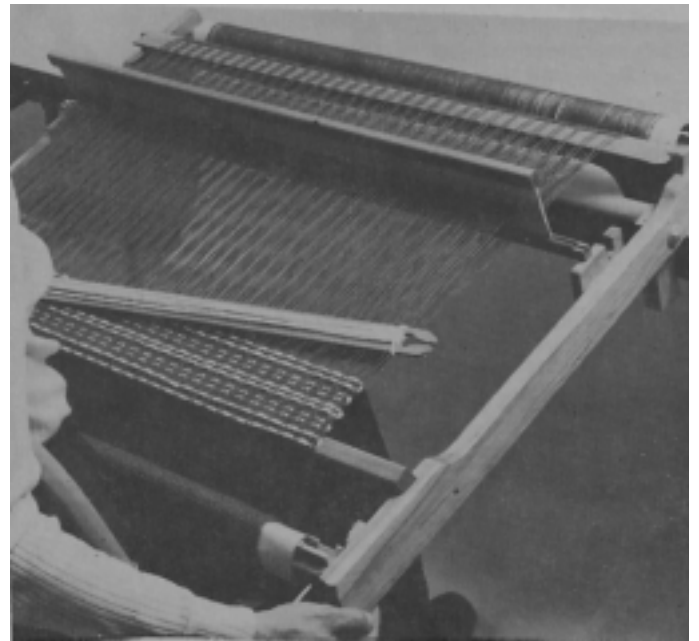
round reed (wicker, rattan)	sisal
flat reed	jute
half oval reed	ropes
raffia	cables
cane	ribbon
ash splint	leather strips
fiber splint	fur
rush (cattail leaves)	cloth strips (felt, braided, ...)
fiber rush	chair webbing
grasses	paper
corn leaves	plastic
willow	computer tape
vines	piping (upholstery)
sea grass (Hong Kong Grass)	plexiglas
coconut fiber	wire

Think especially in terms of each material's TEXTURE and STABILITY. If you're interested in wall hangings and sculpture, there are endless possibilities. For instance, wire is often worked into a piece to aid in the shaping. It can be hidden or be part of the surface texture. Reeds are often worked into Roman Shades and placemats for rigidity and density. I have seen baskets made of each of these materials, pillows made with fur, yardage made with ribbons, curtains made with plexiglas rods and cut shapes, and floor mats made of ropes and coconut fiber.

Where do you get these materials? They are fairly readily available at yarn stores, fabric stores, hardware stores, hobbycraft stores, junk stores and by gathering them or knowing a generous friend. (Try the yellow pages of your phone book.)

You may need a pruning snips or a wire cutter to cut some of the materials. You may also need to soak some things in lukewarm water until they are pliable enough to work with. (I'm referring to most of the materials in the left hand column.) Fiber rush and fiber splint are both paper products and should not be soaked. If a piece will be used outside, you may want to spray it with Blair Spray Clear Protective Coating (available at Wet Paint, 1690 Grand Ave., St. Paul) or something similar. Polymer medium or Shiva Acrylic Matte Medium diluted 1 to 1 with water, work well to stabilize a piece and the medium dries invisible when painted on lightly.

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