

Educator Notes

Judith Scott Bound and Unbound

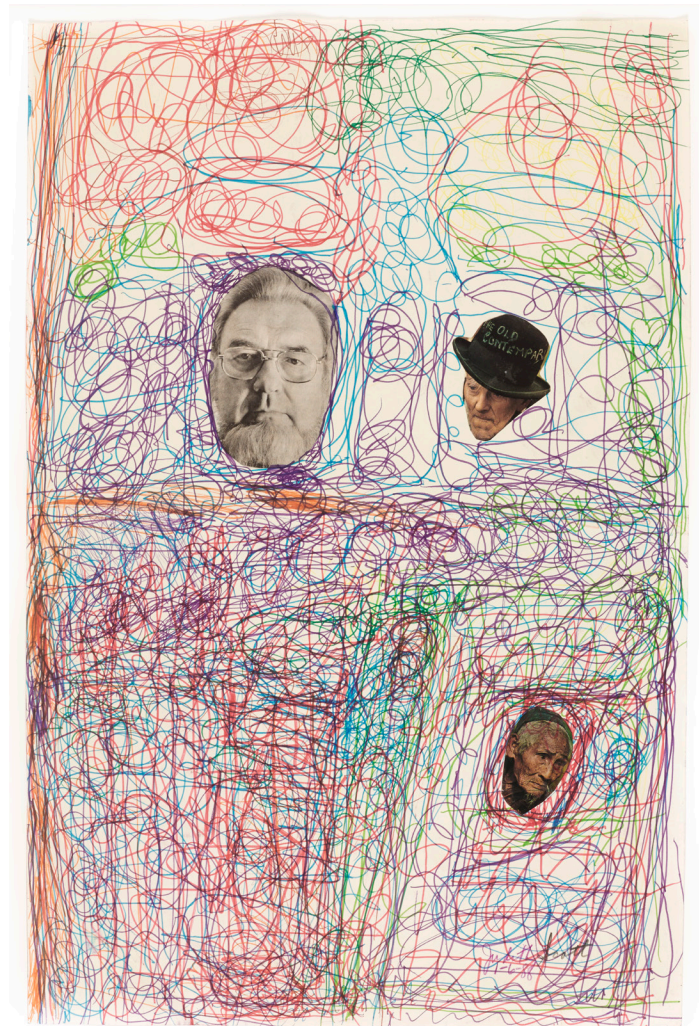
March 10–**July 10**, 2016



Judith Scott, *Untitled*, 2000. Fiber and found objects, 25 x 12 x 10 in (63.5 x 30.5 x 25.4 cm). Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland. © Creative Growth Art Center. Photo: © Benjamin Blackwell

About the artist

Judith Scott (b. 1943, Columbus, OH; d. 2005, Dutch Flat, CA) was born with Down syndrome, and was largely deaf and did not speak. After thirty-five years living within an institutional setting for people with disabilities, in 1987, she was introduced to Creative Growth Art Center, a professional studio program serving adult artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oakland, California. Scott's work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Collection de l'Art Brut, Switzerland, the American Folk Art Museum, New York, and the Museum of Everything, London.



Judith Scott, *Untitled*, 1988. Mixed media on paper, 17 x 11 in (43.2 x 27.9 cm). The Museum of Everything, London. © Creative Growth Art Center. Photo: Brooklyn Museum

About the exhibition

Organized by the Brooklyn Museum, and in Aspen, overseen by Heidi Zuckerman, Nancy and Bob Magoon CEO and Director, *Judith Scott—Bound and Unbound* showcases sculptural objects spanning nearly two decades of the artist's career at Creative Growth, including a selection of her earliest works on paper.

Scott's drawings—the first pieces she created at Creative Growth—offer an inviting entry point into the exhibition. The chromatic artworks, comprised of repetitive marks and overlapping loops, display her intuitive sense of visual rhythm and strong use of color.

Scott's hand-constructed sculptures of found objects bound in layers of yarn and fiber are formal exercises in color and form. X-rays reveal that hidden objects are often at the core of Scott's sculptures. Scott used a number of everyday materials that came from a variety of places, including objects from her home and fibers from Creative Growth.

Questions for discussion

- I X-rays of Scott's work reveal an assortment of objects hidden by the artist. Is it important to know what is inside? Why or why not?
- I How does the exhibition title, *Bound and Unbound*, relate to what you see?
- I What do you notice about the artist's use of materials? How does she change the function of everyday objects into something new?

Suggested activities

Intuition Sculptures

Have students gather various colors, textures, and lengths of yarn along with scissors and a small found object.

Invite students to sit in a quiet spot with their supplies, spending time feeling the textures of the yarn. After a short period, ask students to begin wrapping the object with the yarn, taking care to observe the choices they make and whether the object will be concealed entirely by layers or partially exposed.

Ask students if they prefer a certain texture of yarn or why they selected the colors they did. Students can try binding a second object to the first with more yarn to create a different form.

To close the activity, ask students to share their sculptures with one another. Host a discussion about what the experience felt like to create these bound sculptures.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 970.925.8050 ext. 133 or email education@aspenartmuseum.org

AAM exhibitions are made possible by the Marx Exhibition Fund.

Judith Scott—Bound and Unbound is organized by the Brooklyn Museum. The exhibition is curated by Catherine J. Morris, Sackler Family Curator for the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum, and Matthew Higgs, artist and Director/Chief Curator of White Columns.

In Aspen, the exhibition is overseen by Heidi Zuckerman, Nancy and Bob Magoon CEO and Director. The presentation of *Bound and Unbound* in Aspen is funded in part by the AAM National Council.

AAM education programs are made possible by the Questrom Education Fund.