

Judith Scott: outsiders.autodidacta,arte bruto.



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Judith Scott (May 1, 1943 – March 15, 2005) was an internationally renowned American [fiber artist](#). She was a [fraternal twin](#) to Joyce Scott, and she was born [profoundly deaf](#), mute, and with [Down syndrome](#).^[2] She worked at the Creative Growth Art Center in [Oakland](#).

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Education

When it was time for the girls to start attending school, Judith was found to be "ineducable," not even qualified for the class for children with learning disabilities. Her deafness unrecognised, she was thought to be profoundly retarded. Consequently, on medical advice, her parents placed Judith in the Columbus State Institution (formerly the Columbus State School) an institution for the mentally retarded, on October 18, 1950. This separation had a profound effect on both twins.

The records from Judith Scott's first few years at the Institution indicate that she had an IQ of 30 (based upon oral testing before her deafness was recognised). For this reason she was denied any training opportunities. Deprived of her twin, Judith became severely alienated, and behavioral problems soon surfaced. Her Clinical Record states that "She does not seem to be in good contact with her environment. She does not get along well with other children, is restless, eats messily, tears her clothing, and beats other children. Her presence on the ward is a disturbing influence".^[3]

In 1985, Joyce Scott became her sister's legal guardian. Judith moved to California, a state where all mentally retarded citizens are entitled to an ongoing education.

Art

On April 1, 1987, Judith Scott started going to the Creative Growth Art Center. In her first few months at the center, Judith was unexceptional with paint. She scribbled loops and circles, but her work contained no representational imagery, and she was so uninterested in creating it that her sister was considering ending her involvement with the program.

Some months later Judith casually observed a [fiber art](#) class conducted by visiting artist Sylvia Seventy, and using the materials to hand, spontaneously invented her own unique and radically different form of artistic expression. While other students were stitching, she was sculpting with an unprecedented zeal and concentration.

Her special creativity was quickly recognised, and she was given complete freedom to choose her own materials. Taking found objects (often stealing them from other people at the Center) she would wrap them in carefully selected colored yarns to create diverse sculptures in many different shapes. Some resemble cocoons or body parts, while others

are elongated totemic poles. Many of her works also feature pairs; Scott's experience as a twin is essential to her work.

Scott's work became immensely popular in the world of outsider art, and her pieces sold for up to \$15,000.^[4] Her art is held in the permanent collections of the following museums: [Art Brut Connaissance & Diffusion Collection](#) (Paris and Prague), [Museum of American Folk Art](#) (Manhattan, New York), [Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art](#) (Chicago, Illinois), [L'Aracine Musée D'Art Brut](#) (Paris, France), [Collection de l'art brut](#) (Lausanne, Switzerland), and the [American Visionary Art Museum](#) (Baltimore, Maryland).^[5]

Judith Scott died of natural causes at her sister's home in Dutch Flat, California, at the age of 61.^[1] She outlived her life expectancy at birth by almost fifty years.



VER VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVH5vl4NuO8&feature=player_embedded

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judith_Scott

