

Rebecca Gilliard



Rebecca Gilliard is a sweetgrass basket maker, a unique art brought to the South Carolina low country in the late 17th century by enslaved West Africans. The baskets were made by the slaves in large quantities to winnow rice and to store dried grains, vegetables, salted fish, corn and wild herbs intended for medical purposes. The tradition is still alive today, but for different uses and purposes. The traditional baskets have become items that are sought after by art collectors from around the world. Also, the creative styles have evolved over the centuries, but the technique and the natural material remained the same.

Ms. Gilliard, originally from Charleston, South Carolina, learned sweetgrass basket making through the traditional method of passing the craft down from one generation to the next. Ms. Gilliard's baskets are made of sweet grass, palm leaf, long leaf, pine needle and bull rush. She provides demonstrations of her basket weaving technique to schools, community centers, festivals and art fairs. The baskets are uniquely designed and can be used for many purposes.

Ms. Gilliard's work has been featured in exhibitions at the DeKalb Historical Society and the The High Museum of Art. She also has presented her work and demonstrations at the Folk Art Event in Jonesboro, Georgia, the Georgia Folk Life Festival and the Atlanta History Center.

Historic examples of Sweet Grass Baskets are included in collections of the Smithsonian Institution, Decorative Arts Museum, McKissick Museum, Charleston Museum and the American Museum of Natural History.



Bookings: Rebecca Gilliard *Artist*

404.438.6472 | Union City

rebeccagilliard@yahoo.com

Fees: Demonstrations \$250
Educational Outreach \$200
Community Outreach \$300

Demonstration Specifications: Space Dimension: 6' x 12' • Setting: (requirements vary with demonstration) • Assistants: 2 people