

2016 – artist statement      Elizabeth Whyte Schulze

Snyderman-Works      Philadelphia

New Variations in Basketry

My work is informed by my travels over 30 years. My particular interest has been in petroglyphs and

cave paintings. With many trips to the American Southwest petroglyph sites as well as a rare invitation to visit the original cave in Lascaux, France, these experiences remain a stable resource

in my imagery cache.

Combining the sculpted coiled basket with a painted surface has defined my work for

over 10 years. A thin layer of rice paper envelopes areas of the woven surface. The nubby basket's

construction is revealed and enhanced as acrylic paint is applied to the surface. The contrast of fiber and paint becomes an interesting balancing act to achieve the important visual language between these elements. Using glyphs, marks and text in layers of color I form an interaction between the woven basket and the painted surface. Recent sculptures have added handmade fiber

scrub brushes from Japan, reintroducing more texture to the completed basket form.

My approach to working on the basket is to present a complex landscape of imagery that is visually

challenging and personally satisfying.