

# S N Y D E R M A N - W O R K S G A L L E R I E S

## **Adela Akers Bio**

Adela Akers' formal art training began in 1957 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her interest in art history, particularly textiles, led her to choose weaving as a major. Advanced studies in textiles followed in 1960 at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. In 1962, her work was included in a major national exhibition: Young Americans '62 at the American Craft Museum in New York City.

A series of large scale weavings begun in 1967 emphasized scale and reflected Akers' interest in architecture. These works focused on the woven structure and minimized color. Making the structure of the weave visible and using the loom as a tool became integral to her work.

In 1968-1970, Akers was artist in residence at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina. While at Penland, she met ceramic artist Toshiko Takaezu who encouraged her to move to Clinton, New Jersey. Akers moved to Clinton where she stayed until 1972.

A teaching position at Tyler School of Art at Temple University brought Akers to Philadelphia in 1972, where she headed the Fiber Art Area and developed Tyler's BFA and MFA programs.

A summer grant from Tyler School of Art and trip to California in 1975 to research basketry inspired a new body of work. Akers wanted to extract the principles of baskets and the discipline of the basket maker. It was her desire to invent massive weavings that were enlarged replicas of the basket walls. Her work at this point had a stripped-down simplicity that speaks to the very nature of weaving itself. In 1977, the Hadler-Rodriguez Gallery in New York City presented these new works in a solo show.

The late 1980's and 1990 revealed a new direction for Adela Akers as she began working with the accordion format, using sisal, linen and fine soft wools. These works show an illusion of two different images. The color is softly introduced as in a watercolor.

Adela Akers was Professor of Art and Chair of the Fiber Area at Tyler School of Art from 1972 until her retirement in 1995. At this time Akers moved with her husband to Northern California, where she still resides.