

Jean Yao



- **Born** in 1952, in Taiwan, China
- Based in Ormond Beach, Florida since 1982
- **Known for:** Basket weaving using palm tree fibers
- Award winner at the Smithsonian Craft and Design Show, Washington, D.C.

Born in 1952, in Taiwan, China, Jean Yao moved to the United States in 1982. She became interested in basket weaving in the late-1980s and, in the 1990s, she began to experiment with baskets from indigenous Florida materials. Functional and beautiful, her baskets are recycled from one of the most recognizable parts of the Florida landscape: palm trees.

Yao's forms are influenced by a mix of Asian functional vessels, traditional basketry, and her own sense of what is possible from the challenging toughness of palm fronds and flowers. Though she keeps her works unadorned by artificial color, she creates a great range of patterns, colors and textures that allows her work to be appreciated as fine art sculpture. Her award-winning baskets have been included in major exhibitions throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian Craft and Design Show, Washington, D.C.