

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS
R E V I E W

Max Almy

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Kay Sekimachi

Louis Siegriest

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Kay Sekimachi.

KAY SEKIMACHI

Profession: Weaver
Attended CCAC: 1946–1949,
1954–1955

Kay Sekimachi is an internationally acclaimed weaver who has exhibited widely throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, and is represented in many collections, both public and private.

Sekimachi first attended CCAC to study drawing and design. "I grew up in Berkeley and it seemed to me CCAC was *the* art school to go to," comments Sekimachi. "I loved those years at CCAC, especially those with watercolor teachers such as George Post, the late Louis Miljarek, and Carol Purdie, were marvelous." When she ran low on funds, she left CCAC, spending her last \$150 on a loom. For six years she struggled to master loom techniques until, in 1954, she returned to CCAC and studied with the late Trude Guermonprez (then professor of Textile Arts and chairman of the Division of Crafts).

"Studying with Trude helped me to decide that I really wanted to become a weaver." At that time most people were weaving utilitarian things: placemats, clothing, home furnishings, etc. "Trude opened my eyes that weavings didn't have to be utilitarian." Also, she "taught us not to be afraid of the loom, but to understand it as a tool that *you* control."

This encounter, which was to turn into a deep friendship between the two women, was the catalyst in the development of her artistic expression. She has, in the last 30 years, received critical acclaim for producing a body of work characterized by its intuitive use of materials, sensitive design, and flawless execution.

Her work is in collections at The Oakland Museum; American Crafts Museum, N.Y.; Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.; The Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, Scotland; The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan; and more.