



Speaker: Another thing that has expanded the vocabulary of art is the wide range of materials that artists have to work with. It's amazing. I'll give you a real simple example that I encountered several years ago. Jacob Semyonov is a traditional artist from South Central Alaska. He makes traditional native hats that they used for fishing, but he makes them as our objects. One thing that's used in a traditional hat is walrus whiskers. He needed a source of walrus whiskers and he did not feel comfortable using the real thing.

One was the element of deterioration and two was the environmental ecological aspect of it because these were works of art. They were no longer practical, need-them-for-living type of hat like they used to be. He starts searching for source of synthetic walrus whiskers. What he wound up locating was a broom manufacturer in the Seattle area that creates synthetic walrus whiskers for him now, created from the same kind of synthetic broom strands, but they make them to imitate walrus whiskers specifically for this artist. I'd like you to take a look at some of the links that I have here for you. It's just a small buffet of the materials contemporary artists are using today.

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