

Sabine Reckewell

Artist Statement

In 1978 David Ireland led a graduate student seminar at Fiberworks in Berkeley. I was among a small group of fiber artists working toward an MFA. The going was tough at times, since few of us had been exposed to the kind of work David did. I liked his approach, but applying it to the work I did required radical rethinking. I ended up stripping my work of all extraneous embellishments and made it as minimal and as transparent as possible: I crocheted squares, using non-traditional materials such as metal wires, strips of plastic, fishing line, etc. For each square I used one tool and one stitch.

David's favorite piece, however, was a box of tangled up strings and nails- a remnant from an installation I had done at the Fiberworks gallery. The space had wooden rafters full of randomly placed nails left over from previous exhibits. I tied a random length of white string to each nail and tied a corresponding nail at the end of each string filling the whole gallery. At the end of the 2 day installation I swept the strings and nails into a plain cardboard box. David liked the box of strings and nails- evidence of an unspecified art making process- more than the installation itself.