

# BASKET, MOHAWK – Knitting Basket, Basket with Lid

## OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

**Repository:** Crandall Public Library.  
Folklife Center  
Glens Falls, NY.

**Creator:** Rita McDonald 1938 -

**Title:** Basket, Mohawk – Knitting Basket, Basket with Lid

**Dates:** 2012

**Abstract:** Two fancy baskets made by Rita McDonald

**Quantity:** Two baskets

**Identification:** Folk Art & Artists

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rita McDonald, born April 1938, learned how to make baskets from her mother by watching and by “being around baskets.” Her mother was known for knitting and shopping baskets and clothes hampers – some hampers as large as three feet tall. McDonald continues to make these kinds of baskets. Her father was a maker of utilitarian baskets, making pack and laundry baskets. McDonald taught her skills to her grandchildren, who are becoming accomplished basketmakers.

## INDEX TERMS

**Places:** Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation, New York

**Subjects:** Baskets  
Basketmakers  
Folk Art  
Folk Artists  
Mohawk basketmakers

**Important People:** Rita McDonald

**Form/Genre:** baskets

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** Basket, Mohawk – Knitting Basket, Basket with Lid  
The Folklife Center at  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Purchased, 2012

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS**

The knitting basket is made with a “corn washing” weave. The only non-native material is the cord (“Hong Kong Cord”).

The basket with lid is made with a “Shell weave.” The Shell Weave reminds us of our relationship to water creatures (this weave is also called “popcorn” weave). There is a bow on top. The basket uses a wampum motif (friendship chain) horizontally, and uses sweetgrass on its rim.